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A Weekly Journal of the Chemical and Drug Trades
and of
British Pharmacists throughout the Empire,
ESTABLISHED 1859.

The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is the leading journal addressing the chemical and drug trades of the British Empire. It is adopted as an official journal by nineteen Chemists' Societies in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa and the West Indies, and its paid-in-advance circulation in Great Britain and all Countries having business relations with the British Empire is intrinsically and numerically unique.

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SUMMARY OF THIS ISSUE.

The more notable items only are dealt with.

Articles and Communications.

"Truth" publishes this week an attack on the United Drug Co. (p. 50).

Further protests about the new booking-fee arrangement are printed on p. 65, while "Xrayser II." discusses the matter on p. 47.

Lord Lister died last Saturday. We comment in an editorial article on the antiseptic system of surgery discovered by him, its effects on humanity and pharmacy (p. 50).

The Board of Customs and Excise have acceded to our request to regard "Lassar's Paste," "Lassar's Eczema Paste," "Unna's Paste," and "Unna's Eczema Paste" as non-liable titles when used by privileged persons (p. 48).

The ointments of the British Pharmacopœia are the subject of a communication by Mr. G. W. Lucas, a member of the Committee of Reference in Pharmacy (pp. 52-54). Mr. Lucas invites the co-operation of pharmacists in all parts of the Empire in proving the formulæ for the bases, and offers to supply experimenters with samples of the paraffins used.

Mr. Lloyd George stated on Monday that if doctors reject the safeguards assured to them under the medical-benefit section of the Insurance Bill, the Commissioners will hand over this part of the measure to friendly societies (p. 43). The result would be a big increase in medical institutes and dispensaries (p. 44). The result of this we discuss (p. 48).

The Organisation Committee of the Pharmaceutical Council is making trouble for the Society. The officers of the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association protest against the official report of the meeting held in Manchester (p. 65). Since our correspondence pages went to press we have received a letter from Mr. Harry Kemp, who attended the meeting. He strongly supports the protest by Mr. Geo. S. Woolley and his colleagues.

News of the Week.

A number of wine-licences have been granted to chemists, and others have had their applications refused (p. 35).

Dr. W. Odling, past-President of the Chemical Society, is retiring from the Waynflete Professorship of Chemistry (p. 41).

Pasteur's birthplace at Dôle has been acquired for public purposes, the final donation having been given by Mr. Rockefeller (p. 36).

The Local Government Board has analysed some new proprietary milk-preservatives of interesting composition and object (p. 50).

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland has obtained permission to alter the regulation regarding the date of the Preliminary examination (p. 42).

The Society of Apothecaries intends to introduce in Parliament a measure having for its object the strengthening of the position of persons holding its certificate in dispensing (p. 43).

Mr. H. Frasch has received the Perken Medal of the New York Section of the Society of Chemical Industry. It is his processes of obtaining sulphur in a liquid form that originated the United States trade in sulphur (p. 38).

The evening meeting this week of the Pharmaceutical Society had before it papers by Professor Greenish and Miss Bartlett on powdered drugs and black mustard-seed, while Messrs. Harrison and Self gave particulars of the first part of a fresh investigation on asafetida (p. 59).

Trade and Market Matters.

New regulations regarding the importation of opium into Calcutta have been gazetted. These do away with the grievances which importers have felt under the old rules (p. 37).

Although business is not brisk in some quarters, several important price alterations have occurred this week. Quick-silver has gone up, and take the mercurials with it. Saltpetre is dearer, so is potassium iodide. All Sicilian oils are dearer. Some other oils are cheaper, notably cod-liver oil and ol. amygd. essent. and persic. Some kinds of vanilla are dearer, and scarcity in several articles are stiffening prices. Menthol and hydrastis are also dearer (p. 61).

ENGLISH AND WELSH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

Mr. H. Granger, Ph.C., High Street, Newhaven, Sussex, has been appointed organist for the "Home Streu" Lodge of Freemasons, of which he is a Past Master.

At the Palace Theatre, Plymouth, on February 7, "Kinemacolor" moving pictures were used to illustrate a lecture on the products of the National Cash Register Company. The enterprise is to be given at the leading centres in the British Isles.

The Spectacle-makers' Company have arranged for a course of lectures on optical subjects to take place at the Carpenters' Hall, London, E.C., on April 10, 17, and 24. The lecturers are Professor Silvanus P. Thompson and Mr. H. G. Critchley, M.D.

The Margate Town Council have decided to make an order under the Shops Act suspending compulsory closing of shops for the weekly half-holiday during the months of June, July, August, and September in each year. This is the first order reported under the new Act.

Geo. Downer (39), traveller, who was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment for embezzling money belonging to Mr. F. J. Oliver, chemist and druggist, Maidstone (*C. & D.*, January 20, index folio 73), died in prison on February 7 from cardiac failure, following acute kidney-disease.

The sequel to the magnanimity of Mr. R. McClumphia, chemist and druggist, Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, in supplying his neighbours with water (*C. & D.*, February 10, index folio 208), was that his own private supply went off over-night. Over 1,000 persons took advantage of Mr. McClumphia's kind action.

The February issue of "Knowledge" contains an interesting article on "Medicines: Ancient and Modern," by Dr. O. C. M. Davis, Ph.C., Lecturer in Materia Medica at Bristol University. The article begins with the mysticism surrounding the use of amulets, and ends with illustrating the great advances in modern therapeutics chiefly by means of derivatives of aniline such as acetanilide, atoxyl, etc.

At a special meeting of the Kesteven (Lincs) County Council held on February 7, Alderman W. S. Fox moved that the medical officer be asked to report in regard to the use of arsenic in agriculture. The Alderman said he was of opinion that the careless way in which arsenic is handled is a serious menace to public health. He had seen arsenic stored in barns in paper packages, and underneath were heaps of corn destined for the mill. Lincoln city alone sent out 20 tons of arsenic every month for agricultural purposes. It was really a very serious question. The Chairman thanked Mr. Fox for bringing the matter forward.

Boots, Ltd., have let the tender for the reconstruction of their new premises at Lancaster, which are situate immediately opposite their present Penny Street branch. It is understood that the company declined to pay an increased rental on the termination of the lease of their present premises. Premises at 171 and 173 High Street, Gillingham, and two shops in Narrow Street, Peterborough, are to be reconstructed on the firm's behalf. At the eleventh annual dinner of the Nottingham and district departmental managers of Boots, Ltd., held on February 7, Sir Jesse Boot, who presided, in replying to the toast of the firm, remarked that two years ago he came out with a very ambitious programme. It was not wholly accomplished yet, but he hoped to get the greater portion of it accomplished. If he were not here, he hoped that with the help of his son and staff the thing would be carried through.

Kala-azar, or Black Fever.

"The Times" of February 15 announces that Surgeon-General Bannerman, I.M.S., late Director of the Bombay Bacteriological Laboratory and now of the Madras Presidency, has telegraphed to Sir Ronald Ross, of the Liver-

pool School of Tropical Medicine, that Captain W. S. Patton, of the Indian Medical Service, Assistant Director of the King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Madras, has discovered the complete development of the parasite of Kala-azar in Indian and European bed-bugs.

Census of Production.

The first meeting of the General Advisory Committee was held at the Board of Trade on February 13. The Right Hon. Sydney Buxton, M.P., presided, and there were also present Sir Hubert Llewellyn Smith, K.C.B., Mr. G. S. Barnes, C.B., and Mr. A. W. Flux, of the Board of Trade, Mr. Malcolm Delevingue, C.B., of the Home Office, and the following members of the Committee: Sir Hugh Bell, Bart., Sir Charles W. Macara, Bart., Sir Thomas Ratchiffe Ellis, Mr. J. H. C. Crockett, Mr. B. Harmer, (Mr. W. H. Mitchell, Mr. Alexander Siemens, Mr. J. W. White, with Mr. G. A. G. Stanley (Secretary).

Analysts' Affairs.

The Bristol analyst reports that among the drug samples taken last quarter was a sample of borax and honey ointment which proved, on examination, to be boric ointment. No proceedings were instituted, as the sample was taken for experimental purposes. A sample of liquorice-powder containing 14 per cent. of water was also condemned.

The terms for the appointment of a public analyst for Lambeth in succession to the late Dr. John Muter, F.R.S.E., have been circulated. It is required that the person who receives the appointment shall analyse formal and informal samples up to 2,000 per annum, and that he should receive a salary of 500*l.* a year, providing his own laboratory and assistants. No provision is made for samples exceeding 2,000 per annum.

The Birmingham analyst, Mr. J. F. Liverseege, Ph.C., F.I.C., in reporting upon the presence of arsenic in borax, states that prosecutions were instituted in regard to five samples, purchased from three vendors, which contained 200 parts per million. One manufacturer was responsible for the supply of this borax. Four out of eighteen samples of tincture of iodine contained excess of iodine ranging from 16 to 24 per cent. Three of these were marked "iodine paint," which designation Mr. Liverseege considers is unsatisfactory.

Contracts.

Ludlow Guardians.—Mr. G. Woodhouse, chemist, Ludlow, for an air-bed, at 2*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

Rotherham Town Council.—H. Davy & Son, Rotherham, for a six months' supply of drugs.

West Ham Town Council.—For annual supplies: Hospital and General Contracts Ltd., for druggists sundries; A. C. Young & Co., and Middleton Bros., for the supply of chemicals to the electricity department.

Admiralty.—Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co., 143 Farringdon Road, London, E.C., for the supply to the naval medical establishments in Great Britain of ether, chloroform, and ethyl chloride for three years (1912, 1913, and 1914).

Poison-licences.

Mr. W. F. Gullick, of the Waterloo Nursery, Fisherton Street, Salisbury, has applied to the Town Council for a poison-licence.

Mr. William F. Reynolds, ironmonger, 12 George Street, Richmond, has given formal notice of his intention to apply to the Surrey County Council for a poison-licence.

Sheffield Notes.

The fifth annual dinner of the local Boots' Recreation Club was held at the Sheffield Royal Victoria Station Hotel on February 8. The President (Mr. T. W. Hodges) informed the gathering that the club is "going strong." Mr. A. Milne, general secretary of Boots, Ltd., in replying to the toast of "The Firm," said that he believed that the wages of the qualified man would have gone down to the level of those of the unqualified man if it had not been for the opening of Boots' shops. He also stated that lately the firm had had very good relations with the Pharmaceutical Society.

Football.

Inter-Pharmacy Football League.—London College v. South of England College.—Adverse climatic conditions attended this match, which was played at Shepherd's Bush on February 10, the ground being very heavy. The South scored in the first five minutes. This stimulated the London team, with the result that they equalised almost immediately. The "Cyanides" shortly afterwards scored from a penalty, taken by Sharpe, and half-time arrived with the score 3 to 1 in favour of London. The second-half was fought with much determination on both sides. Naylor, Chidley, and Williams added three more goals for the London College, who ran out winners of a hard but pleasant game by 6 goals to 1.

Wine-licences.

"Off" wine-licences have been granted by the Licensing Justices to the following, many of whom have undertaken to sell only wines of a medicinal nature:

Mr. Chas. Cowle, chemist and druggist, 23 Middle Street, Yeovil.

Mr. F. J. Oliver, chemist and druggist, 70 Bank Street, Maidstone.

Mr. W. W. Burr, chemist and druggist, High Street, Ryde (I.W.).

Mr. C. H. Averill, chemist and druggist, 4 and 6 Conduit Street, Lichfield.

Mr. Henry Hall Briggs, chemist and druggist, 151 Railway Street, Nelson.

Mr. Arthur Lloyd Davies, chemist and druggist, 47 Chertsey Road, Woking.

Mr. Harry Reynolds, chemist and druggist, 2 Broadway, Tarring Road, Worthing.

Mr. Benjamin Ascroft, chemist and druggist, 158 Manchester Road, Ince, Lancs.

Mr. S. H. Proctor, Ph.C., of Taylor's Northern Drug-stores, 4 Crown Street, Halifax.

Mr. W. Taylor, chemist and druggist, 7 Red Lion Square, Heanor, Derbyshire (wine and spirit licence).

Mr. J. E. Matthew, chemist and druggist, Hoyland, for his branch pharmacy at Cudworth, near Barnsley.

Mr. Alexander Oldfield, chemist and druggist, 94 and 96 Station Road, Southend-on-Sea. (The licensee is to restrict his sales to a list produced before the Licensing Justices.)

Mr. E. C. Ashford, chemist and druggist, 52 Gold Street; Mr. Charles Johnson Burnett, chemist and druggist, 347 Wellington Road; and Mr. W. T. Lucas, Kettering Road—all Northampton.

Mr. F. H. Bloomfield, chemist and druggist, Central Pharmacy, The Cotteridge, King's Norton, and Mr. Herbert Mayou, 617 Washwood Heath Road, Ward End, Birmingham. (Both licences are subject to an undertaking that medicated wine only be sold on the prescription of a medical man.)

The applications for "off" wine-licences from the following met with refusal:

Mr. E. J. Challenger, Ph.C., 41 Rolle Street, Exmouth.

Mr. J. T. Nicholson, chemist and druggist, Boroughgate, Appleby.

Mr. W. H. Hey, chemist and druggist, Evenwood, Bishop Auckland.

Mr. Chas. Wass, chemist and druggist, High Street, Holbeach.

Mr. Richard Cecil Keay, chemist and druggist, 51 Dalton Road, Barrow.

Mr. Briggs Harold Kershaw, of the Drug-stores, 17 The Green, Idle, Yorks.

Mr. John Caesar Cain, chemist and druggist, 40 Upton Road, Cloughton Village, Birkenhead. In support of the application it was stated that the nearest chemist where medicated wines could be obtained is nearly a mile away. The suburb is a rapidly growing one, and although there is a fully licensed hotel 40 yards away from Mr. Cain's pharmacy, medicated wines could not be obtained there. On the opposition quoting medical opinion, Dr. A. C. E. Harris (one of the Justices) objected to such quotation being made in reference to the value of medicated wines.

The Stone (Staffs) Licensing Bench has transferred the wine and spirit licence held by Mr. Fredk. Jacks, chemist and druggist, Stone, to new premises at 62 High Street.

The medicated-wine licence held by Mr. E. A. Holloway, chemist and druggist, 140 The Broadway, High Street, Southend-on-Sea, has been transferred to new premises at 136 The Broadway.

At Bradford Brewster Sessions an application by Mr. Herbert Wm. Gregory, chemist and druggist, of Messrs.

Rimmington & Sons, Ltd., 9 Bridge Street, Bradford, for a manufacturing chemist's licence, was deferred for further consideration.

The Accrington Licensing Sessions, on February 8, adjourned the application of Mr. Albert Edward Hartley, chemist and druggist, for a licence to sell wine at 14 Church Street, Accrington, until the adjourned licensing sessions on March 6, when the renewal of three other chemists' wine-licences would be considered.

The application of Mr. H. Carlton, chemist and druggist, 8 High Street, Horncastle (Lincs), was deferred until the adjourned brewster sessions. Mr. Carlton stated that he wanted the licence to make himself safe, as there were several proprietary articles the names of which did not indicate that they were wine.

At the Paignton Licensing Sessions a wine-licence was granted to the Timothy White Co., Ltd. For the applicants it was stated that the firm held forty-seven such licences in the South of England. That at Torquay was endorsed with an undertaking that medicated wines only should be sold. The Magistrates' Clerk pointed out that there is no legal power to put in such a condition. In reply to a magistrate who asked under what power the firm manufactured their own wines, it was stated that no authority was necessary.

Mr. Gibson Quirk Dixon, chemist and druggist, 1 Corn Market, Halifax, applied for an off-licence to sell wine, sweets, liqueurs, and spirits at 8 Old Market. It was stated that his present premises had been purchased by Boots, Ltd., and he had been obliged to find new premises. It was mentioned on behalf of Boots, Ltd., that the company were represented in antagonism to Mr. Dixon, but they objected to licences at chemists' shops on principle. The Chairman said the Bench considered Mr. Dixon always conducted his business in a creditable manner. The application was granted.

Fires.

A fire was caused last week in the basement of the pharmacy of Mr. W. Spark, chemist and druggist, 84 Crosby Street, Maryport, through an errand-boy dropping a lighted match on some oil. It was extinguished before much damage had been done. The loss is covered by insurance.

A fire broke out at the chemical-works of Messrs. Major & Co., Wolverhampton, late on February 10, through a still containing several thousand gallons of tar springing a leak. The escaping material became ignited at a fire beneath an adjoining still and trickled off, a stream of flame, into a tar-cooler, the contents of which were also set on fire. The local fire-brigade, with the assistance of the firm's employés, succeeded in quelling the outbreak, after applying sand and water for about an hour. The flames were prevented from extending to adjoining premises, and the chief loss was entailed in the tar and pitch consumed.

From Various Courts.

At the East Ham Police Court, John Howe, chemist's assistant, 151 North Road, Barking, has been ordered to pay 15s. per week towards the support of his wife.

At Glyn Ceiriog last week, John Orrit, of Craignant Lodge, was fined 10s. and costs for laying poisoned flesh. Defendant had put poison in the carcase of a sheep to poison the dog which had killed it. Another dog was fatally poisoned instead.

In Mr. Justice Avory's Court, London, on February 14, Mr. Richards Collings, drug-store proprietor, South Street, New North Road, Isington, was ordered to pay 100l. damages to Miss Frances Maud Biltcliffe for breach of promise of marriage.

At Atherstone on February 6, Ernest Green (14) was admonished for stealing a box of pine pellets, value 6d., from the pharmacy of Mr. C. E. Ison, chemist and druggist, of Long Street, Atherstone. The Bench deferred their decision for a fortnight.

At Bingham, on February 8, Austene, Ltd., of Castle Gresley, near Burton-on-Trent, were ordered to pay costs 10l. 10s. and fined 15l. on each of two counts—viz., selling

undecorticated cotton-seed cake as decorticated, and not stating on the invoice the percentage of oil and albumen.

At Southampton on February 6, Charles Dunbar, *alias* Williamson, commercial traveller, Southsea, was sentenced to six months' hard labour for stealing goods value 2*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* from Boots, Ltd., by means of the bogus order and messenger trick.

At Exeter Children's Court on February 12, a sixteen-year-old errand-boy pleaded guilty to stealing 9*d.*, the money of his employers, Messrs. Evans, Gadd & Co., Ltd., wholesale chemists, Exeter. The boy had admitted adding an extra 9*d.* to a railway receipt and retaining that sum for himself. He was bound over for six months.

At Hastings Quarter Sessions on February 9, the three youths who were recently committed for trial on a charge of stealing hair-brushes and hair-wash, the property of Mr. A. E. Bolshaw, chemist and druggist, 37 White Rock, Hastings (*C. & D.*, January 27, index folio 107), were each sentenced to three months' imprisonment in the second division for this and other offences.

At Westminster Police Court on February 10, Phoebe Emily Benningfield (45), wife of Colonel J. W. Benningfield, Finchley, London, N., was remanded on a charge of stealing goods, value 6*l.*, from various departments of the Army and Navy Stores (including two boxes of throat-pastilles from the drug-department). For the defence, it was suggested that accused was under the influence of drugs, prisoner being obliged to take thyroid-gland tablets as medicine.

IRISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

At Castlewella, co. Down, last week, Jas. Morrison was charged with having stolen neuralgia-mixture, embrocation, and honey belonging to Mr. S. J. Smiley, druggist. The prisoner was sent to gaol for a month, with hard labour.

A man named W. F. Simpson, who described himself as a chemist, was at Dublin Southern Police Court on February 12 sentenced to two months' imprisonment for being found on enclosed premises without being able to give a satisfactory explanation of his presence.

On February 12, in connection with Berry Street Presbyterian Church Guild, Belfast, a lecture on "Wild Birds and Flowers in their Haunts and Habitats" was given by Mr. Morris, Ph.C., and Mr. W. J. Rankin, jun., Ph.C. Mr. Rankin first took up the flower section, and Mr. Morris dealt with the birds.

The Belfast and Ulster Vintners' Association intend having a series of questions asked in Parliament regarding the use in Ireland of methylated spirit as a beverage. At the meeting of the Association last week, a member alleged that a druggist informed him "that his sales of methylated spirit made a living for him."

CANADIAN NEWS.

(From the "C. & D." Correspondent.)

C.P.A.—The annual meeting of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association has been fixed to take place on August 5 and following days at Vancouver, British Columbia.

FERTILISERS.—The Laboratory of the Department of the Inland Revenue has reported on 161 samples of fertilisers, only eight of which were found to be below standard. In these, however, the deficiencies were compensated by a surplus in other ingredients.

COCAINE SALE.—Mr. A. Labranche, druggist, 446 Park Lafontaine, Montreal, was recently sentenced to three months' imprisonment and a fine of \$200 or two months' extra imprisonment for selling cocaine. He has appealed, and was released on bail. The alkaloid, which was sold to young persons, was found to be a mixture of cocaine and stovaine.

FRENCH NEWS.

(From the "C. & D." Paris Correspondent.)

PRICE-PROTECTION.—At the last meeting of the Syndicat Général de la Réglementation (Pharmacists' Price-protection Association), M. Rousseau announced that the proprietors of one hundred proprietary remedies have now accepted the scheme, and that at present the syndicate is in negotiation with over 100 firms. It is hoped that this year, thanks to this increase, the subscription may be reduced by one-half, and possibly even diminished to the nominal amount of 50*c.*

A TRADE-MARK QUESTION.—M. Vandenbroeck, as proprietor of Thermogène, has prosecuted the manufacturers of two similar French articles, "Lint Thermogène" and "Calorigène," for fraudulent imitation. The "Tribunal Civil" (Parisian "County Court") held that the word "Thermogène" was a "generic and necessary term" which could not be claimed as exclusive property. In the other case it was rather the general similarity of the box, label, and price than the actual title ("Calorigène") which decided the Court to find for the plaintiff. Both judgments are to be carried up to the Court of Appeal.

THE BIRTHPLACE OF PASTEUR.—The scheme to purchase the house at Dôle, Jura, where Pasteur was born, is in the hands of a committee of that town, of which the Mayor is the chairman. A certain sum has been collected, and 2,200*l.* was necessary to complete the purchase and form a fund for the permanent maintenance of the house, which is intended to serve as a Pasteur Museum. Much interest was consequently created in France last week by the announcement that the French Ambassador in America had transmitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs an offer from Mr. Rockefeller to subscribe the required balance of 2,200*l.*, which generous liberality has been at once accepted by the Mayor of Dôle, on behalf of his committee, to whom the offer was referred. —The "Figaro" reminds us that the house in which the great chemist lived when Professor of Sciences in Strasbourg is readily distinguishable by the bronze bust of the great *savant*, placed by his admirers between the windows of the modest flat he then occupied.

INSURANCE AGAINST ACCIDENTS.—The question of the reserve fund was raised at a recent meeting of the Administrative Council of the French Pharmacists' Society for Insurance against Dispensing Accidents by M. Baudot, of Dijon, who thought the premium might be reduced in view of the small number and petty nature of recent claims. M. Lajoux, who has for many years so successfully directed this scheme, opposed the idea. The reserve fund ought to be steadily increased. There would, of course, be a limit. For instance, when they reached 10,000*l.* sterling, half the annual profits might be redistributed at the end of the twelve months, 60 per cent, when 12,000*l.* had been accumulated, and so on. If they wanted to reduce premiums, let them bring in new recruits. When they numbered 5,000 they could count on a distribution of profits; with 6,000 a premium of 12*f.* or 15*f.* would cover all risks. Replying to criticisms of his management of the Society, M. Lajoux pointed out that in 1906, after fifteen years' existence, they had but 464 members. At the end of 1910 they boasted 1,190. In 1906 the capital was less than 1,600*l.*; since then it had been regularly increased by more than 600*l.* a year. M. Crinon added that the Council wished to take up assurance business under the Employers' Liability Act, but the law exacted for this class of assurance a very heavy reserve fund. This was an additional reason for supporting M. Lajoux's views.

PHARMACISTS v. VETS.—It is a fact that in France as elsewhere, when well-established custom clashes with the text of the law, the latter usually goes to the wall. French pharmacists and vets. are just now much exercised over a case of this kind, of which the facts are briefly as follows: A pharmacy inspector having found on the premises of a veterinary surgeon at Villefranche a complete pharmacy of remedies for all the ills to which equine and other animal flesh is heir to, issued a summons against him for illegal practice of pharmacy. But he was only following the general practice, as the average French vet. keeps and freely sells from a similar arsenal of remedies. It

is true that an Ordinance of October 29, 1846, formally forbids anyone except pharmacists from stocking or selling poisons, but as M. Roux, the eminent chief chemist to the French Ministry of Agriculture, has justly pointed out, the rigorous provisions of the text of this decree have led to its falling partly into abeyance. He is further inclined to the opinion that the veterinary pharmacies are a public danger. As a result of this state of things the new Minister of Agriculture, in whose province the matter lies, has under consideration a draft law which will offer pharmacists and veterinary surgeons a suitable *modus vivendi*, presumably by formally abolishing the present legal rights of the former. So it may prove that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," in the legal sense, for French pharmacists to keep and sell poisons. In the meantime our veterinary friends are discussing the "omnipotence of the pestle-puncher," though of the many cardinal sins reproached to us in the past we have so far escaped this sarcasm.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS.

(From "C. & D." Correspondents.)

"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of the seven Societies and Associations of Chemists in British South Africa, as well as to other chemists in business there.

Natal.

BUSINESS CHANGE.—Mr. E. S. Whysall, who has been managing the Beach Pharmacy, Durban, since the death of Mr. J. H. Read, has taken over the business.

PERSONAL.—Mr. T. W. Dukes, F.C.S., of Burlington, Vryheid, has been elected chairman of the local Licensing Board. Mr. Dukes has been a member of the Board for seven years.—Mr. J. W. Hull, Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co.'s South African representative, was in Durban when the mail left.

Orange Free State.

FIRE.—The premises of Mr. J. J. Seymour, chemist and druggist, Vrede, formerly occupied by Mr. E. Langham, were destroyed by fire on January 11. No fire-quelling apparatus of any kind was available. Mr. Seymour's loss is not fully covered by insurance.

A PARAGRAPH having appeared in the Bloemfontein Press to the effect that eau de Cologne and Perry Davis's pain-killer had been gazetted as intoxicating liquor under Ordinance 32 of 1904, it should be noted that this ordinance applies only to the Transvaal, consequently chemists may continue to sell pain-killer as before. The sale of eau de Cologne to natives within the O.F.S. is, however, prohibited by Proclamation 36 of 1906, which further included spirit of wine, methylated spirit, and any spirituous perfume.

O.F.S. MEDICAL AND PHARMACY COUNCIL.—The usual monthly meeting was held in the Board Room, Government Buildings, Bloemfontein, on January 12, with Dr. A. B. Ward (President) in the chair. There were also present Drs. Bidwell, Manning, and Pretorius, and Messrs. Fowle and Hewitt, the latter acting as secretary in the absence of Mr. Streeten on leave. The following registrations as chemists and druggists were approved: Charles Ewart Harris (Pharm. Soc. of Gt. Brit., April 4, 1910) and Albert Ross (Pharm. Soc. of Gt. Brit., April 4, 1900). Proposals by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, for arranging a basis on which the certificates of Colonial examining boards would be accepted by them, were referred to the Pharmaceutical Society of the Orange Free State for their consideration and report. One candidate having applied for examination as chemist and druggist, the dates for the examination were fixed as February 27 and 28. The following examiners were appointed: Materia medica, practical pharmacy and dispensing, and pharmacy, Messrs. A. Fowle and J. Rawling; botany, Dr. Potts; chemistry, practical chemistry, and physics, Dr. Rindl and Professor Lyle; prescription-reading, Drs. De Kock and Pretorius. The proposed regulations for the sale of poisonous substances (*C. & D.*, January 6, index folio 5) submitted by the Cape Pharmacy Board were considered, and the O.F.S. Pharmaceutical

Society having reported that they did not consider the present time opportune for their introduction, a similar view was taken by the Council. The Council then went into committee for the consideration of correspondence from the Transvaal Medical Council relative to the draft Medical and Pharmacy Bill.

Transvaal.

A POTCHEFSTROOM CHEMIST who was prosecuted for supplying medicine during prohibited hours successfully pleaded that it was required for an urgent case.

INDIA AND THE EAST.

(From the "C. & D." Correspondents.)

AN UNUSUAL ADVERTISEMENT.—A recent issue of the "Times of India" contained the following advertisement:

WANTED one M.A. in Chemistry passed or failed, (2) one PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST or experienced hand possessing knowledge of preparing galancial and proprietary articles. Apply stating qualifications, previous experience and salary wanted to

DR. M. D. ANKLESARIA,

Gujarat Chemical Works,

Ahmedabad.

34619

The question arises, What is a "failed M.A."?

THE OPIUM SALES.—The provision opium to be brought forward for sale in 1912 will amount to 19,840 chests, each containing 1 maund 18 seers and 12 chitaks of pure opium and 9 seers 6 chitaks used for pasting the leaves of the shell. Of these 8,830 chests will be the preparation of the Patna Factory and 11,010 chests at the Ghazipur factory. At the monthly sale held in January and February 1,740 chests will be offered, and in March to September inclusive 1,770 chests each month. The offerings in November and December will be 1,100 chests at each sale. The opium will be sold for exportation by sea only.

MR. DAVID LEWIS, chemist and druggist, of Shanghai, met with a queer experience recently. Mr. Lewis hired a carriage to take him to the arsenal, about five miles out of town. On nearing the gates he was "held up" by some Chinese soldiers, who, flourishing scissors, told the Chinese driver his unsightly pigtail must come off. The men withdrew on Mr. Lewis making a movement as if to draw a revolver, but in response to whistles they were reinforced by a large number of men carrying guns with fixed bayonets. This was too much for the mafao (coachman), who meekly submitted to having his hair cut. He now vows that he will never drive another "foreign devil" to the arsenal again, for the last drive cost him his tail, and on the next his head might be demanded.

INDIAN OPIUM REGULATIONS.—A notification in the "Calcutta Gazette" of December 20, 1911, goes far to remove the grievances felt by firms who desire to import opium for legitimate purposes. The recently made regulation restricting such importation to eleven Calcutta and two other firms is rescinded, and a new regulation substituted which imposes the necessity of applying to the Excise department on each and every occasion of importing any narcotic drugs for permission to do so; quantities and description of drugs to be exactly given. Permits will be given to suitable applicants to import, by means other than post, any of the goods specified in the old notification of February 4, 1911. The permit must, on the arrival of the goods, be presented to the Customs collector to obtain clearance. Respectable dealers will not be refused this permission provided quantities specified are not considered unreasonable and that there is no reason to think the goods will be improperly sold. This new rule will give much relief to the drug-trade from the previous irksome regulations. The object of the Government is to get a business capable of great abuse under control, and both buyers and receivers of indents would do well to consider themselves fairly treated, and try and confine themselves to a legitimate business, set their face against any dealings with doubtful persons or in suspicious quantities.

OUR AMERICAN LETTER.

(Special Correspondence to the "C. & D.")

Mr. Charles Caspari, Junr., who retired from the general secretaryship of the American Pharmaceutical Association some months ago after nearly eighteen years' service, was recently presented with an engrossed set of resolutions of appreciation by the society. The presentation was made by Professor J. P. Remington at a meeting held in Baltimore, and at the same time a gold watch and fob were given to Dr. Caspari in the name of twenty of his close friends and associates in the A.P.A. It is a matter of interest that Dr. Caspari has been chosen to fill the important position of Food and Drug Commissioner of the State of Maryland.

The Riker and Hegeman Chains of retail shops were consolidated a year or two ago, but the legal formalities were not completed until recently. It is now known that this combination has a capitalisation of fifteen million dollars, and owns about sixty stores. This is the biggest group of the kind in the country. The number of stores is much below that represented in the Boots company in England, but the establishments are larger, and each does a very large business. Now that the new company has been formally organised, it is quite likely that it will extend its operations, and many chemists fear that their interests will be more or less jeopardised.

Sale of Opium.—The Federal Government at Washington has recently issued a tentative set of regulations covering the traffic in opium, morphine, and cocaine. If these regulations are afterwards adopted and promulgated, it will be necessary for every dealer in narcotics to keep a complete record of every purchase and sale, except in dispensing these substances upon the prescriptions of authorised medical, dental, or veterinary practitioners. Furthermore, it will become necessary for every package to bear the word "Poison" on the label, as well as the customary skull and cross-bones printed in red on a white background, or in white on a red background. All such simple remedies as Dover's powder, paregoric, etc., which contain any quantity whatsoever of the proscribed narcotics, must bear the poison and the skull and cross-bones label. There has been more or less objection to this tentative decision, and it remains to be seen whether or not it will finally be promulgated.

American Sulphur Industry.—At the January meeting of the New York Section of the Society of Chemical Industry, Professor Charles F. Chandler, past-President of the Society, presented the Perkin Medal for distinguished service in the field of applied chemistry to Mr. Herman Frasch, President of the Union Sulphur Co., of New York. The presentation was made on behalf of the Perkin Medal Committee of the Associated Chemical and Electrochemical Societies of America. Mr. Frasch is a distinguished technologist who, according to "Paper," began his career as an inventor with a process for refining paraffin wax in



Mr. H. FRASCH.

1876, and in 1890 conceived a process for bringing sulphur to the surface of the earth in a molten condition from a depth of 1,000 feet. The sulphur resources of the United States are enormous, but until Mr. Frasch's advent all attempts to get it out in payable quantity had been frustrated by the movable sand deposits which lie over the sulphur deposits. Mr. Frasch's process consists in forcing water, superheated to 355° F., down to the deposit, and pumping up the melted sulphur. The process, after many difficulties, was carried out to success, and Mr. Frasch has been able to demonstrate that he can win in this way 122,000 tons in six months, but the actual output in 1903 was 35,000 tons. In that year the United States imported 188,888 tons of sulphur from Sicily and exported none. So well did Mr. Frasch's process work that in 1907 the imports were 20,599 tons and the exports 35,000 tons.

American Chemical Society.—The Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry of the American Chemical Society held four interesting meetings during last session. The Chairman's address was upon "Our Advances and Retrogressions in Pharmaceutical Chemistry," and among the papers presented were "Smoking Opium: Its Manufacture and Chemical Composition," by Messrs. A. B. Adams and J. M. Doran; "An Improved Method for Assay of Aromatic Sulphuric Acid," by Mr. L. A. Brown; "Progress on the Work of Revision of the United States Pharmacopœia," by Professor Jos. P. Remington; "Estimation of Antipyrine and Codeine in Acetanilid or Acetphenetidin Mixtures," by Mr. W. O. Emery; "The Pharmacopœial Requirements for *Cannabis sativa*," by Mr. H. C. Hamilton; "The Estimation of Morphine in Cough-syrups," by Mr. A. D. Thorburn; "The Estimation of Morphine in Pills, Tablets, etc.," by Mr. J. B. Williams. The annual election resulted as follows: *Chairman*, Mr. B. L. Murray; *Vice-Chairman*, Mr. L. A. Brown; *Secretary*, Mr. Frank R. Eldred; *Members of the Executive Committee*, Messrs. L. F. Kebler and Atherton Seidell.

LIMITED COMPANIES.

New Companies Registered.

The letters P.C. mean Private Company within the meaning of the Companies Act, 1907, and R.O., Registered Office.

SIGNET SALT CO., LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 2,000*l.* Objects: To take over and carry on the business of W. G. Harrison, Newcastle-on-Tyne and elsewhere (the Signet Salt Co.). The subscribers are G. H. Owbridge, T. Swinhoe, F. F. Emerson, and H. A. Haslam. R.O., 7 Elswick Court, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

CHETWIN & NEWARK, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 4,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (2,000 preference). Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in lubricants, chemicals, and other substances, druggists, drysalts, oil and colour men, etc. The first directors are W. J. Seal (chairman), H. W. Chetwin (managing director), and H. H. Newark (all permanent). R.O., 24 and 26 Wilson Street, Poplar, E.

WEST HAM CHEMICAL-WORKS, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 11,000*l.* Objects: To take over the business of a sulphuric and nitric acid manufacturer carried on by C. L. Tapply at West Ham Chemical-works, West Ham, as W. C. Bacon & Co., and certain of the assets thereof, and to adopt certain agreements. The first directors are C. H. Tapply and C. L. Tapply (both permanent), and J. Pittard.

REX GRAHAM, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business carried on at 34 James Street, Oxford Street, W., at 31A Park Square, Luton, at 65 St. Peter's Street, St. Albans, and at 72 High Street, Bedford, and to carry on the business of a dental practitioner in all its branches. R. Graham is the permanent governing director. R.O., 8 Mill Street, Bedford.

WAKLEY & SON (1912), LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 35,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of proprietors, publishers, etc., to acquire the business of Wakley & Son, Ltd., proprietors of "The Lancet," carried on at 423 Strand, and 1 and 2 Bedford Street, Strand. The first directors are L. E. Creasy and others to be appointed by the subscribers. Remuneration of L. E. Creasy, 200*l.* per annum; of other directors as fixed by the company. R.O., 1 Bedford Street, Strand, W.C.

GEORGE WHITE & SONS, LTD. (P.C.).—Registered in Dublin. Capital 5,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the business of drug merchants, oil and colour merchants, patent-medicine vendors, general merchants, and storekeepers carried on by Wm. White, Geo. E. White, and R. E. White at Waterford, under the style of Geo. W. White & Sons. The first directors are R. H. White, druggist; Wm. White, chemist and druggist; Geo. E. White, chemist and druggist; and L. H. Grubb. R.O., 102 O'Connell Street (late King Street), Waterford.

Charges or Mortgages.

Under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, Section 93, the mortgages or charges therein specified are (except in Scotland) void against the liquidator and any creditor of the company unless filed with the Registrar in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Act.

Full statutory particulars of the following have been filed at Somerset House, London, W.C.

W. B. Cartwright, Ltd.—Mortgage dated January 1, 1912, to secure 387*l.*, charged on land near Canada Road, Rawdon, Yorks. Holder: W. Gooder, Belmont, Yeadon, Yorks.

International Salt Co., Ltd.—Issue on January 26, 1912, of 8,000*l.* debentures, part of a series of which particulars have already been filed.

LEGAL REPORTS.

TRADE LAW.

Purchase of a Chemist's Business.—At Lambeth County Court on February 13, William Edwin Longstaff, chemist and druggist, Laurie Grove, New Cross, sued George Gilbert, chemist and druggist, Ivydale Road, Nunhead, for 3*l.*, being instalment of the purchase-money of a chemist's business at Ivydale Road. Defendant counter-claimed for damages, on the ground that plaintiff induced him to buy the business by falsely representing that the takings were between 6*l.* and 7*l.* a week, whereas they were, in fact, much less. Defendant claimed the rescission of the contract of sale, and damages. Mr. G. L. Hardy, for the defendant, stated that the purchase-money was 100*l.*, 5*l.* of which was paid down and another 25*l.* on taking possession, the remainder to be paid in instalments. The business was, however, found to be running practically at a loss, and defendant naturally refused to complete the contract. Plaintiff produced a book during the negotiations which purported to show that the takings were between 6*l.* and 7*l.* a week, but this book had not been seen since. Plaintiff had bought the business from a Mr. Rowe, but had not yet paid him, and at the time he was representing to the defendant that the takings were 6*l.* to 7*l.* a week he was writing to Mr. Rowe, in response to requests for payment, stating that he was making no profits at all. Plaintiff asserted that his statement to the defendant was correct, and on Judge Parry remarking that the onus was upon him to prove it, he produced an account book. His Honour pointed out that the entries in this had apparently all been made at the same time, and stopped short of the months relevant to the action. As no other documentary proof that the takings were 6*l.* and 7*l.* a week could be produced, his Honour gave judgment for the defendant on both claims, and granted the rescission of the contract, awarding defendant 30*l.* damages.

High Court Cases.

Unless when otherwise stated these cases have been heard in the High Court of Justice, London.

SALE OF HÆMATOGEN.

In the Chancery Division on Friday, February 9, the case of Aktiengesellschaft Hommel's Hæmatogen v. A. Hommel, jun., and others was mentioned. The plaintiffs in this action are asking for an injunction to prevent the defendants from using the name Hommel in connection with their hæmatogen.

Mr. Buckmaster, K.C., M.P., with Mr. Kirby (instructed by Messrs. Neve, Beck & Kirby), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Sebastian for the defendants.

Mr. Buckmaster said the matter had already stood over for a considerable time. The parties were out of jurisdiction, and an order had already been made for costs. He submitted that the action should be put in the list as soon as possible for trial.

Mr. Sebastian, for the defendants, said the plaintiffs themselves had not yet completed their evidence, and they had to put pressure on them to do so. The parties in the action were really German firms, and they had not yet got plaintiffs' evidence, and did not know what they were going to say. They could not get their evidence ready next week.

Mr. Justice Eve: It looks like a case for a speedy trial.

Mr. Buckmaster: The affidavits make a perfectly clear case, unless there is something very strong on the other side. The defendants were a company duly registered in this country, and the two German gentlemen, his friend's clients, were directors. If Mr. Sebastian could not get his case ready for next week, he asked that it be fixed for Tuesday week. In reply to the statement that plaintiffs' evidence was not ready, he said one of their affidavits had come from Switzerland, but the signature attached was that of the Consul instead of the deponent. He would, however, give the defendants a copy, and the matter of signature would be remedied by the time suggested.

Mr. Sebastian said there were a great many—about forty—affidavits, but he would do his best to get ready.

Mr. Justice Eve: I shall deal with it this day fortnight.

Mr. Sebastian: There is one more point I should like to mention. The plaintiffs are taking very unfair advan-

tage of this action, and are circularising the entire trade, and taking away our business.

His Lordship: All the more reason for a speedy trial, but I cannot express any opinion on the allegation, as I do not know anything about it.

Mr. Sebastian said he would endeavour to have his evidence ready in time.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1887.

PAREGORIC ELIXIR.

The South Staffordshire Stipendiary (Mr. N. Neville) sat at the Brierley Hill Police Court, on February 8, to hear two summonses against Edwin Cox, 76 Lower High Street, Quarry Bank, for contraventions of the Merchandise Marks Act, the allegations being that he falsely labelled a paregoric substitute as paregoric elixir, and unlawfully sold the liquid to the prejudice of the purchaser. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. W. Tunbridge on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society, and the defendant was represented by Mr. J. T. Higgs.

Mr. Tunbridge, in opening the case, said the defendant sold to an officer of the Pharmaceutical Society a compound labelled "Paregoric Elixir" which contained no tincture of opium whatever, whereas this tincture is specified in the British Pharmacopœia as the principal ingredient. Without opium it is not paregoric elixir, and is utterly valueless. The defendant was not a registered chemist. When his attention was called to the offence alleged against him, defendant replied that he was away from home at the time, and his son must have supplied the substitute, using an old label printed nearly twenty years ago, all of which had since been destroyed. Subsequently the defendant's solicitors wrote intimating his intention to plead guilty, and asking that the expense of bringing an analyst to the court might be avoided. Mr. Tunbridge urged that it was a grave condition of affairs, in which people in the position of the defendant were permitted to act as the defendant had acted, and he asked the Magistrate to mark his sense of the seriousness of the offences by inflicting a fine that would also act as a deterrent to others.

James Richardson, an inspector for the Society, deposed that when he visited the shop on January 1 he saw defendant's son, whom he asked for twopennyworth of paregoric. The mixture was given to him in a bottle, and he paid 3*d.*—In cross-examination the witness said he went to the shop to see if the defendant was selling poison, and asked first for belladonna-plaster. The son said these were out of stock. Witness would not admit that it was safer for the public to use the substitute rather than an article which contained opium.

Mr. Higgs, for the defence, said that while admitting that the B.P. was authoritative, there are many things in it which are not carried out even by qualified chemists. He mentioned sherry as an instance, pointing out that it is never sold as specified in the B.P., and yet no prosecution is ever taken. The defendant had been in business for twelve or fourteen years, and no complaint had previously been made against him. When asked for paregoric, he sold an article equally good, but not containing the dangerous ingredient opium.

The Stipendiary dissented from this view.

Continuing, Mr. Higgs urged that it is against public policy to give facilities to mothers in an industrial district for getting cheap medicines for the purpose of putting their children to sleep, and avoiding the annoyance they might otherwise cause. Defendant was sorry, and had given a promise that it should not occur again, and, now that the Society had succeeded in calling public attention to the matter, he suggested that a nominal fine would meet the case.

The Stipendiary said he could not regard it as a technical offence to sell as paregoric elixir a substitute which did not contain the important part. On the summons alleging the false description he imposed a fine of 5*l.*, and 1*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* costs, and the other summons he dismissed on payment of the costs.

THE imports of drugs into Damascus during 1910 amounted in value to 11,000*l.*, against 10,000*l.* in 1909 and 6,000*l.* in 1908; Austria-Hungary, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, India, and France were the chief sources of origin.

BIRTHS.

DAVIES.—At the Pharmacy, Clydach, Glam., on February 7, the wife of Henry R. Davies, pharmacist, of a son.

DUNN.—At 89 Forest Avenue, Aberdeen, on February 10, the wife of R. W. Dunn, chemist and druggist, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

CROOKS—DIMOND.—At Maryborough, Queen's Co., Parish Church, on February 1, by the Rev. Louis W. Crooks, M.A., Rector of St. Aiden's, Belfast (brother of the bridegroom), assisted by the Rev. Canon Eves, M.A., Rector of the parish, the Rev. Samuel B. Crooks, M.A., Curate-Assistant of St. Patrick's, Belfast, fourth son of the late John Crooks, Newtownards, to Violet Anna, fourth daughter of Mr. George Dimond, Ph.C., Maryborough.

HITCHMAN—STEVENS.—At St. Mary's Church, Bedford, on February 12, by the Rev. H. S. Tupholme, M.A., Walter Hitchman, chemist and druggist, Kettering, to Laura, third daughter of the late Mr. T. S. Stevens, Greenhithe, Kent.

DEATHS.

ALLCHIN.—On February 8, after a long illness, Sir William Henry Allchin, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician Extraordinary to his Majesty the King, aged sixty-five.

BAILEY.—At Hornbrook Villa, Lower Compton, on February 6, suddenly, Amy Blandford, wife of Mr. J. Harvey Bailey, chemist and druggist, 20 Ebrington Street, Plymouth.

BIRD.—At High Wycombe, on February 5, Mr. Walter Bird, aged eighty-three. Mr. Bird, who was born at Yoxford, Suffolk, commenced business at Shipdham, Norfolk. He afterwards joined the firm of Messrs. Smith & Sons, wholesale druggists, Norwich, whom he represented "on the road" for some years, becoming a well-known figure in the Eastern Counties. He finally left the drug-trade for photography, joining the late Mr. Sawyer, the business eventually developing into the Autotype Co. The funeral took place at Golder's Green on February 9.

CHAPLIN.—At 60 Westgate, Wakefield, on February 10. Mr. John Henry Chaplin, pharmaceutical chemist, of Messrs. J. L. Chaplin & Sons, 60 Westgate, Wakefield, aged fifty-two. Mr. Chaplin was born at Colchester, and was apprenticed in 1875 with his father, Mr. J. L. Chaplin, Ph.C., who survives him, going a year and a half later as an improver to Mr. W. B. Salisbury at Leicester. He studied for the Minor, which he passed in 1880, at the "Square" School of Pharmacy. He took the Major in the following year. After about a year with Mr. J. C. Shenstone, Colchester, illness compelled him to return home to Wakefield. On his recovery he became associated in business with his father. Mr. Chaplin took much interest in local pharmaceutical affairs. He formerly acted as divisional secretary and represented the Wakefield Chemists' Association (of which he was President in 1906) on the West Riding Federation. His father is one of the four living pharmaceutical chemists whose diplomas bear numbers below 100, and the business of which he is the head was established in 1793.



MR. J. H. CHAPLIN.

CAVENTOU.—The death has occurred in Paris, at the age of eighty-eight, of Dr. Eugène Caventou, member of the Paris Academy of Medicine (Pharmacy Section) since 1870, of which body he was also President in 1897. He was the son of the famous Caventou who was associated with Pelletier in the discovery of quinine. It will be remembered that a double statue of these two renowned pharmacists exists in Paris. Caventou *filis* was the author of a number of articles on scientific subjects, mostly the result of researches in the laboratory of Würtz, which were published in the "Journal de Pharmacie et de Chimie." The original Caventou Pharmacy in the Rue Gaillon, Paris, disappeared recently owing to rebuilding, and is now in the Avenue de la Grande Armée, near the Arc de Triomphe.

CHARSLEY.—On January 27, Mr. Robert Charsley, chemist and druggist, 180 Ferndale Road, London, S.W., aged seventy-five.

HENDERSON.—On February 7, suddenly, Mr. William Henderson, chemist and druggist, 8 Thomson's Lane, Bridgeton, Glasgow, aged thirty-one.

ILIFFE.—On February 13, Mr. Thomas Perkins Iliffe, Ph.C., 29 Market Place, Nuneaton. Mr. Iliffe was a member of the old-established firm of Messrs. Thos. Iliffe & Sons chemists, Nuneaton. He was highly respected in the district, and had been connected with various public institutions. He was formerly chairman of the directors of the Nuneaton Gas Co. and a Governor of the Grammar School. He also served in official capacities in connection with Nuneaton Parish Church.

KERR.—At Kimberley, South Africa, on January 17, Mr. Hugh Kerr, chemist and druggist, aged forty-one. Mr. Kerr was a native of Dalbeattie, Scotland. He leaves a wife and one child. Mr. Kerr served his apprenticeship in his native town, and also began business there on his own account. He left for South Africa ten years ago.

POOL.—At 9 Everest Road, Eltham, on February 8, from pneumonia, May Jane, wife of Mr. George Pool, chemist and druggist, aged sixty-three.

PRYTHERCH.—On February 11, Mr. Samuel Prytherch, chemist and druggist, Bodedern, Anglesey, aged sixty-six. Mr. Prytherch, who died after a brief illness, was formerly a member of the Anglesey County Council, and served up to the time of his death on the Holyhead Board of Guardians.

SMITH.—On February 6, suddenly, Mr. John Thomas Smith, chemist and druggist, 39 Market Street, Wellingborough, aged fifty-six. Mr. Smith was born at Spalding. He went to Wellingborough thirty-three years ago, and succeeded to the business of Mr. Thorne, in Market Street. Mr. Smith was connected with many organisations and semi-public bodies, and occupied several positions of trust. He had also acted as warden and sidesman at the parish church. A widow and three daughters are left to mourn his loss.

TURNER.—At 15 Leigham Terrace, Plymouth, on February 11, Mary, wife of Mr. Samuel Blandford Turney, Ph.C., 183 Union Street, Plymouth, aged eighty-five.

GAZETTE.

Partnerships Dissolved.

KENNY, J. D., MASON, F., and MASON, J., Treeton, Handsworth, Woodhouse, and Darnall, Yorks, physicians and surgeons, under the style of Kenny & Mason; so far as regards F. Mason and J. D. Kenny.

RICHARDSON, W. C., and LOWE, J. H., Central Beach, Blackpool, chemists and druggists, under the style of Richardson & Co.

WARDLEY, S. F., and CLARKE, T. J., High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, chemists and druggists, under the style of Wardley & Clarke.

WINSTANLEY, R. W., and HUTCHINSON, R. J., Haslemere, Surrey, medical practitioners, under the style of Winstanley & Hutchinson.

The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890.

RECEIVING ORDER.

DAY, J. A., Dawes Road, Fulham, dispensing chemist.

PERSONALITIES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. E. J. PARRY, B.Sc., F.I.C., of 56 Great Dover Street, S.E., has been appointed official analyst to the Tunisian Government.

MR. J. LAURIE, chemist and druggist, 2 Lytham Road, Blackpool, was on February 8 elected a Vice-President of the Blackpool Tradesmen's Association.

MESSRS. DOMER & Co., 8 Harp Lane, London, E.C., have admitted Mr. Leopold Courtin and Mr. Herbert George Warner as joint partners in the firm, as from January 1.

MR. E. H. JUDGE, chemist and druggist, Bourne, Lincs, was on February 7 attacked by three men while out cycling. Mr. Judge was knocked off his machine, and his cycle rendered useless.

MR. A. H. ROSS, chemist and druggist, 15 Strathmartine Road, Dundee, better known to the golfing fraternity as Sandy Ross, is the subject of an appreciative article in "The World of Golf" for February 8.

ALDERMAN H. POTTER, J.P. (Potter & Clarke, Ltd.), Mayor of Stepney, has been appointed by the Borough Council as one of their representatives at the Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health, to be held in Berlin in July next.

MR. R. T. SIMPSON, chemist and druggist, 60 North Road, Lancaster, continues to be a most successful marksman in the Lancaster Rifle Club. He has won the Bell Medal, forty shots rapid firing (ten shots in ninety seconds), with a score of 387, and also the Roberts Medal presented by the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs, awarded for the best average score (94.3) during the past four months.

DR. WILLIAM ODLING, F.R.S., Waynflete Professor of Chemistry at the Oxford University, has intimated that he will retire from the chair at the end of Trinity Term, when he will have completed forty years' occupancy of this chair. Professor Odling is one of the few chemists remaining to us who had their training as medical practitioners. He studied at Guy's and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals, and graduated M.B. London in 1851, and, continuing his connection with medicine, became F.R.C.P. London in 1859. In 1861 the first part of his "Manual of Chemistry" was published, and his papers on Molecular Arrangements paved the way for the new chemistry, of which the beginnings were indicated in the 'sixties. Dr. Odling held the Fullmerian Professorship of the Royal Institution from 1858 until 1872, when he went to Oxford. He became a Fellow of the Chemical Society in 1848, was its Secretary from 1856 until 1869, then Vice-President until 1873, when he was elected President, occupying that position for two years.

TRADE NOTES.

VASELINE PREPARATIONS.—At Cruft's Dog Show, held in the Agricultural Hall, London, N., on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday this week, an excellent display of their specialities was made by the Cheseborough Manufacturing Co.

MEDICATED WINES.—In view of the new Excise regulations regarding the sale of wines admixed with British wines, Messrs. Stephen Smith & Co., Ltd., Bow, London print in the advertisement section of this issue an important statement guaranteeing the purity and genuineness of Hall's Wine and other wines of their brands, and calling attention to their special bonus offer.

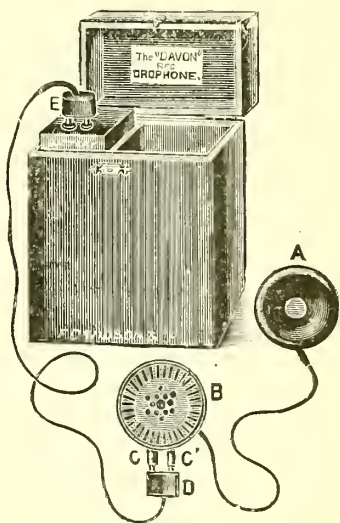
AGRI-HORTICULTURAL CHEMICALS.—Messrs. Tomlinson & Hayward, Ltd., Lincoln, in this issue call attention to Hayward's Eureka weed-killer, "Eurekatin" fumigant, lawn sand and garden chemicals. These, it may be noted,

are sold retail through agents, the makers not catering for direct trade. Another point is that the packages in which the goods are sent out are strongly made, thus obviating the risk of leakage which becomes a serious matter where potent articles are concerned. Advertising matter and special circular letters are obtainable, and arrangements can be made for window-displays.

FLY-PAPERS.—It is always fly-paper season somewhere within the range of the circulation of the *C. & D.*, so that references to the subject in this journal are never out of date. It is time, however, to begin to think of the returning summer in this country, the balmy weather of the last few days certainly favouring the idea that an early return may be looked for. The point of these remarks is that those chemists who desire to avoid the rush for fly-papers when the hot weather comes will do well to make their arrangements beforehand. Messrs. Kay Bros., Ltd., St. Petersgate Mills, Stockport, report that their sales last year were enormous, and they were able to satisfy all demands because they had prepared for a good season. The fly-catching devices of this company are among the best known, and cover all the standard varieties. Inquiries for terms are advantageously made at this time of the year.

"DAVON" OROPHONE.—The subject of instruments for restoring the hearing of deaf persons is one upon which chemists are frequently consulted, and there is generally considerable difficulty in deciding the claims of the various appliances brought forward for that purpose. This week we have had an opportunity of inspecting and testing the "Davon" Orophone, which is made by Messrs. F. Davidson & Co., 29 Great Portland Street, London, W., and our experiments have convinced us that the claims of the instrument are well founded. The Orophone is based on the principle of the microphone as employed in the telephone, and consists of a receiver and trans-

mitter supplied with electricity from a dry battery. The general appearance is shown in the illustration, and we may add that the various parts are made and finished in a first-class manner. The instrument is intended primarily for conversation purposes, but it is not bulky, and can be easily carried about if needed. The sensitiveness of the instrument is such as if used by a person with normal hearing sounds are much magnified, and an atmosphere which would be regarded as still becomes filled with sound vibrations. Another test which we applied was to bring the receiver and transmitter together when a singing noise is given off, due to the passing of air currents between these two parts of the instrument. The Orophone sells at 3*l.* 3*s.*, and there is substantial trade discount. Those of our readers who are interested in this subject should write to Messrs. Davidson for particulars of the appliance.



For the past two years Italy has for the most part filled its own requirements of chemically pure salts, and it is stated that the country has attained independence in the manufacture of hydrogen peroxide, magnesium salts, compressed gases, and formaldehyde. It is also stated that Italy possesses a fine market for pharmaceutical products in South America with Italian firms there.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

Council-meeting.

THE Council met at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, on Wednesday, February 7, Mr. D. M. Watson (Vice-President) in the chair. Messrs. Geo. D. Beggs (Hon. Treasurer), Richard Blair, Joseph H. Bowden, John Burnett, Wm. J. Hardy, Thomas N. Moffitt, John Smith, W. F. Wells, Patk. N. White, J.P., were also present.

VOICES OF CONDOLENCE.

Mr. WELLS said: Mr. Vice-President, before we begin the ordinary business of the meeting I have been asked by the members present to express to you their very deep sympathy with you in the loss you have so recently sustained by the death of your good father. Every member of the Council sympathises with you. As you are in the chair on the present occasion, we can hardly ask you to put the resolution, but we desire it to be placed on record on the minutes that we express our sympathy with you. I feel very deeply with you in your great loss.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I am much obliged for this expression of sympathy. As some of you are aware, my father had reached an age when one might at any time expect his death. But notwithstanding that fact, one cannot anticipate a loss like that altogether, and it was undoubtedly a severe blow for myself and the other members of my family. I am greatly obliged for your kind expression of sympathy.

Mr. WELLS: Unfortunately we have also another member of the Council to sympathise with. Mr. Connor (Mr. J. E. Connor, J.P.) has lost his youngest brother, Mr. Sydney G. Connor, L.D.S., a young man in the prime of life who was just starting out fully qualified as a dentist; and I am sure we also desire to express our deep sympathy with Mr. Connor in his sad loss and with his family.

Mr. MOFFITT seconded the vote of sympathy, which was passed in silence, those present rising in their places.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A card of greeting from the Pharmacy Board of Queensland was submitted.

The REGISTRAR (Mr. Arthur T. Ferrall) read a letter from Mrs. Jane A. Payne, widow of the late Mr. John C. C. Payne, Ph.C., of Belfast, expressing grateful thanks for the Council's motion respecting his death.

The REGISTRAR read a communication from the Assistant Under Secretary, Dublin Castle, in reference to memorials from Anne Fitzmaurice and Francis Duke, of Elphin, co. Roscommon, who had been prosecuted and fined at the Elphin Petty Sessions. The communication stated that after due consideration of all the circumstances of the case, the Lord Justices had decided that the law must take its course.

The CHAIRMAN: This is a much more satisfactory reply than we are in the habit of getting.

The REGISTRAR also submitted a communication from the Clerk of Petty Sessions, Elphin, remitting 6*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, being two-thirds of the fines, with costs 4*s.*, imposed upon Anne Fitzmaurice and Francis Duke.

Messrs. John Fitzpatrick, Edward Mackessy, and Richard J. Taylor wrote submitting certificates from other bodies and desiring Preliminary registration. All were admitted.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Communications notifying changes in their addresses were submitted from the following:

P. J. O. Toole, Ph.C., to c/o J. & J. Canavan, Ltd., chemists and druggists, Drug Hall, High Street, Portadown.

H. J. Owgan, Ph.C., to 56 Sandford Road, Ranelagh, co. Dublin.

James Warnock, Ph.C., to 1804 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, California.

Robert Blair, R.D. to 41 William Street, Londonderry.

John Mortimer, R.D., to 41 William Street, Londonderry.

Alexander Kennedy, R.D., to Killykegan, Coleraine, co. Derry.

DATES OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

The REGISTRAR read a letter from the Clerk of the Council, Dublin Castle, transmitting copies of an Order in

Council passed on January 29, approving of a Regulation made by the Council of the Society on December 6 last with regard to the dates on which the Preliminary examination of the Society are to be held.

The Regulation referred to in the letter is as follows:

"That the two paragraphs on page 77 of the Calendar, 1911, dealing with the dates on which the Preliminary examination shall be held are hereby rescinded, and the following paragraph substituted therefor:

Preliminary examinations are held on the first Thursday and following day in January, April, July, and October, commencing at 11 o'clock A.M.; or on such other dates as the Council may direct."

The CHAIRMAN said they had got this regulation passed in time. If the examination were held at the ordinary time this quarter, the second day of it would fall on Good Friday. He proposed: "That the Preliminary examination next April be held on the first Wednesday and following day."

Mr. BEGGS seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

EXAMINERS' REPORTS.

Reports were submitted from the examiners upon the Preliminary, Pharmaceutical Licence, and Registered Druggist examinations. Twenty-nine candidates presented themselves for the Preliminary examination and nineteen passed; twenty-seven presented themselves for the Pharmaceutical Licence and eleven passed; and for the Registered Druggist examinations there were five candidates, of whom two passed.

COMMITTEES' REPORTS.

Reports were received from the Law Committee, the House Committee, and the School Committee and were adopted.

SEALING OF PHARMACEUTICAL LICENCES.

On the motion of Mr. BEGGS, seconded by Mr. SMITH, the following resolution was passed:

"That the pharmaceutical licences of Joel Green, J. P. Bowden, W. J. Cooper, W. E. Rutledge, Wm. Smullion, Thomas Hayes, Wm. Robinson, John Marks, Michael Kelly, John Vaughan, and James E. Cooke be sealed.

MEMBERSHIP.

On the motion of Mr. WELLS, seconded by the CHAIRMAN, Mr. Robert Joseph Dillon, Ph.C., Main Street, Lis towel, co. Kerry, was admitted to membership.

On the motion of Mr. HARDY, seconded by Mr. BOWDEN, Mr. F. R. Brady, Ph.C., was nominated for election as a member of the Society.

WILLS PROVEN.

Mr. THOMAS BISHOP, Ph.C., Kempton Lodge, Hampton Road, Twickenham, who died on January 7 last, left estate of the gross value of 8,682*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, with net personalty 8,532*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*

Mr. AMBROSE HARTHILL, 113 Jeffcock Road, Wolverhampton, chemist and druggist, who died on January 10, left estate of the gross value of 779*l.*, with net personalty 179*l.*

Mr. THOMAS PRATT GOOCH, Leiston, chemist and druggist, who died November 8, left estate valued at 1,541*l.* gross, with net personalty 753*l.*

Mr. JAMES BRADDOCK, 33 Queen's Road, Oldham, chemist and druggist, who died December 28 last, left estate of the gross value of 15,746*l.*, of which the net personalty has been sworn at 15,158*l.* The testator left the goodwill of his business and book debts, his leasehold premises, 1 Market Place, and his warehouse in Water Street, to his son William.

Mr. JOSEPH CLASSON PRESTON, Ph.C., of 43 Heathurst Road, Hampstead, London, N.W., who died on December 17 last, left estate of the gross value of 10,137*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, of which 10,031*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* is net personalty. Probate of his will has been granted to his son, Mr. Herbert Classon Preston, Box Ridge, Purley, Surrey, and his brother, Mr. Frank Preston, Meadow Croft, Holden Road, North Finchley, and Mr. Arthur Hugh Punnett, of 6 Willow Road, Hampstead, N.W. The testator left 300*l.* to his wife, Mrs. Mary Preston, 100*l.* to his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Lilian Ann Preston, and the residue of his estate, subject to specific bequests, upon trust for his wife for life, with remainder as to four-fifths to his son Herbert Classon Preston and one-fifth to his daughter, Mrs. Eva Punnett.

WESTMINSTER WISDOM.

The Week in Parliament.

PROPRIETARY ARTICLES INQUIRY.

We are informed that Mr. A. Lynch, M.P., proposes to question the Home Secretary at an early date as to what progress has been made with the composition of the Select Committee which has been promised for the purpose of inquiring into the whole question of proprietary medicines.

POISONS AND PHARMACY (IRELAND) BILL.

It is doubtful whether Captain Craig, M.P., will, if successful in the private members' ballot, re-introduce this Session his Poisons and Pharmacy (Ireland) Bill. The hon. member states that, owing to the abnormal character of the Session, there are other matters of greater urgency that will probably claim his attention.

THE OPIUM CONFERENCE.

It is considered probable that steps will be taken to secure a debate at an early date upon the agreement, which was arrived at quite recently at The Hague Conference on the regulation of the trade in opium and kindred drugs, and a copy of which, as indicated in the King's Speech, is to be laid before Parliament. The text of the Convention was printed in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* of February 3, this being the first publication of it in this country.

GAS COMPANIES AND THE MANUFACTURE OF CHEMICALS.

Some weeks are likely to elapse before anything will be heard in a Parliamentary sense of the Wandsworth, Wimbledon, Epsom, South Suburban, Bromley and Erith Gas Bills, under which extensive powers are being sought for the manufacture of chemicals. The Council of the London Chamber of Commerce has been asked by the Chemical Trades Section to lodge a petition in due course for the purpose of securing a *locus standi* before the Parliamentary Committee to which the Bills will be referred, but some considerable time is likely to elapse before this will be formally set up.

THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Parliament was opened on Wednesday by the King in person, and a feature of the Royal Speech was the allusion which it contained to the Indian tour of their Majesties. A number of Bills were foreshadowed, including those dealing with Home Rule, Welsh Disestablishment, and Manhood Suffrage. The debate on the Address is unlikely to terminate before the end of next week at the earliest, in view of the large number of important questions which it is desired to ventilate. As soon as the Address is voted the House will proceed to the consideration of the various outstanding votes which have to be dealt with before the close of the financial year.

APOTHECARIES' ASSISTANTS.

We are officially informed that it is the intention of the Society of Apothecaries to introduce in the forthcoming Session of Parliament a measure intended to strengthen the statutory position of persons holding the assistants' certificate in dispensing. The Bill will include provisions for the establishment of a Register and the right to use a distinctive title. In addition, the requirements of the examination, as well as the examination itself, will be considerably strengthened, no candidate being admitted without having previously passed an examination in general knowledge or having undergone an extended period of training in practical pharmacy. The Bill will contain a specific clause to the effect that nothing therein is to affect or prejudice the rights of chemists and druggists, or to authorise persons registered under the Bill to keep open shop or to sell medicines or poisons on their own account. The proposed measure, of course, preserves the rights of the existing holders of the certificate.

THE imports of "chemical products, medicines, resins, and perfumery" into Leghorn during 1910 amounted in value to 386,198*l.*, against 313,159*l.* in 1910; exports of similar goods last year were 195,557*l.*, against 184,847*l.* in 1909. Among the imports were 1,595 tons copper sulphate, all from the United Kingdom.

National Health Insurance.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE.

THE Provisional Insurance Committee appointed by the Pharmaceutical Council last week will meet at 16 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., on Wednesday, February 21, for the purpose of electing a chairman and deciding certain questions of principle.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE AND THE DOCTORS.

The London Opera House, Kingsway, London, W.C., was, on February 12, the scene of a demonstration in favour of the National Insurance Act. The Congress was promoted by the National Liberal Federation and the Liberal Insurance Committee, but was of considerable importance by reason of the fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the author of the Act, made a speech which dealt largely with the medical benefit. He warned doctors of the danger of mixing up politics and business, and dealt with the objections to the Act which have emanated from medical men. The advantages and disadvantages of the contract-practice system were dealt with, and the remark was made that "underpaid work is shoddy work." He dealt with the safeguards for doctors which had been introduced into the Act during its passage through the House of Commons, and these, he pointed out, will all be swept away if the doctors refuse to assist in the working of the Act. The Royal Colleges of Surgeons and Physicians came in for a severe castigation for "curt, undignified, and discourteous refusal to meet a Government department to discuss matters which affect the profession they officially represent." The Chancellor went on to point out that the Commissioners have very large powers, and can suspend the medical benefit and pay an equivalent sum to the insured persons.

A resolution of thanks was afterwards proposed by Sir John Brunner, Bart., and among the subsequent speakers was Dr. Moody (Newcastle-under-Lyme), who spoke of the benefits of the Act from a medical point of view. He said

CHEMISTS ARE INVALUABLE ALLIES OF MEDICAL MEN

in the fight with disease, and furnish doctors with some of their most valuable weapons. Between chemists and doctors two grievances have hitherto tended to mar the perfect harmony that should exist. In the first place, the chemist by his training has always considered himself the proper man to do dispensing, and that is one of the most obnoxious tasks for the doctor who, after a heavy day's work, returns to find his surgery full of people waiting for medicine. It is a serious tax upon his patience and endurance, and places, moreover, a heavy discount on the value of his dispensing. The relief and comfort to the doctor and value to the patient which will follow the transference of dispensing to the chemist, as contemplated by the National Insurance Act, will doubtless in many cases be followed by the transference of the rest of the doctor's dispensing. The other difference—that of prescribing by chemists—will be done away with, as the opportunities of illicit prescribing will not occur. Moreover, prescribing by chemists has been largely a matter of *tu quoque*. The Act will bring chemists and doctors closer together and make a firmer bond of friendship between them than has existed before. Dr. Moody then referred to the advantages of the proposals for establishing sanatoria for consumptives, remarking that vigorous effort should lead to the abolition of tuberculosis in two generations.

Several pharmacists were present at the meeting. Those seen by our representative were Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones, M.P., who was on the platform, Mr. John C. Umney, and Mr. J. Owen Evans (Victoria, S.W.)

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

The following list of institutions referred to by Mr. Lloyd George is reprinted from Mr. Thomas Smith's "Everybody's Guide to the National Insurance Act, 1911" (Chas. Knight & Co., Ltd., Is.). See index folio 259. The numbers affixed refer to membership.

Banbury Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1889), Broad Street, Banbury. 3,779.

Bath Amalgamated Friendly Societies' Provident Medical Institute (1884), 3 and 4 Bath Street, Bath. 2,036.

Birmingham Amalgamated Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1876), 80 Dale End, Birmingham. 5,826.
 Bollington Medical Aid Society (1878), Wellington Road, Bollington. 498.
 Bournemouth Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1888), 2 Wootton Gardens, Bournemouth. 2,683.
 Bradford Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1872), 42 Little Horton Lane, Bradford. 3,884.
 Bridgnorth Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1890), Town Hall, Bridgnorth. 825.
 Bristol Foresters' Medical Institute (1876), 14 St. James' Square, Bristol. 5,159.
 Bristol Rationals Medical Institute (Bedminster) (1899), 25 Coronation Road, Bristol. 2,245.
 Bristol Shepherds' Medical Institute (1889), 71 Old Market Street, Bristol. 2,208.
 Burton-on-Trent Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1881), Duke Street, Burton-on-Trent. 5,014.
 Cambridge Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1883), Friendly Societies' Institute, 47 City Road, Cambridge. 7,072.
 Chester Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1892), 25 White Friars, Chester. 2,780.
 Derby Amalgamated Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1872), 25 Macklin Street, Derby. 9,247.
 Eccles and District Medical Association (1885), 13 Byron Street, Patricroft. 3,165.
 Exeter Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1880), 34 East Southernhay, Exeter. 3,051.
 Gainsborough Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1880), 1 Caskgate Street, Lord Street, Gainsborough. 1,650.
 Gloucester Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1887), 3,891.
 Goole Friendly Societies' Medical Union (1891), 13 East Parade, Goole. 2,786.
 Grantham Friendly and Trade Societies' Medical Institution (1879), 45 Swinegate, Grantham. 1,550.
 Great Yarmouth Amalgamated Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1896), 147 King Street, Great Yarmouth. 3,023.
 Greenock Amalgamated Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1874), 47 Regent Street, Greenock. 3,011.
 Hull Friendly Societies' Medical Institution (1875), Silvester Street, Hull. 5,200.
 Kidderminster Amalgamated Friendly Societies' and General Medical Aid Association (1880), 4 Lion Street, Kidderminster. 2,949.
 Leamington Amalgamated Medical Friendly Societies' Association (1880), 4 Portland Street, Leamington Spa. 3,340.
 Leeds Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1878), 5,813.
 Leicester Foresters' Medical Association and Dispensary (1880), Foresters' Institute, St. Nicholas Street, Leicester. 5,348.
 Leicester United Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1876), 114 High Cross Street, Leicester. 5,054.
 Lincoln Oddfellows' (M.U.) Medical Institution (1872), Unity Square, Lincoln. 6,148.
 Lincoln United Friendly Societies' Dispensary (1873), 15 Monks Road, Lincoln. 4,970.
 Loughborough United Friendly Societies' Medical Aid Association (1883), 20 Fennel Street, Loughborough. 3,300.
 Lowestoft Friendly Societies' Medical Institute (1876), 80 Clapham Road, Lowestoft. 4,302.
 Luton Friendly Societies' Medical Institute (1889), 36 and 38 Waller Street, Luton. 8,848.
 Manchester United Friendly and Trade Societies' Medical Association (1888). Branches—7 Boston Street, Hulme, Manchester; 29 Crescent, Salford; 80 Queen's Road, Queen's Park, Manchester; 38 Hyde Road, Ardwick. 4,184.
 Northampton Friendly Societies' Medical Institute (1872), 50 Broad Street and 157 Colwyn Road, Northampton. 8,737.
 Norwich Friendly Societies' Medical Institute (1872), 11 Lady Lane, Norwich. 11,248.
 Nottingham Friendly Societies' Medical Institution (1875), 13 Shakespeare Villas, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham. 4,000.
 Plymouth, Stonehouse, and Devonport (Three Towns) Medical Institution (1882), 7 Clarendon Terrace, Stoke, Devonport, and 5 Albany Place, Plymouth. 9,508.
 Poole Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1889), 2,306.
 Portsmouth Royal Dockyard Medical Benefit Society (1869). 5,684.
 Preston Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1870), 10 St. Paul's Square, Preston. 4,656.
 Reading Amalgamated Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1879), 78, 80, 82, and 84 Southampton Street, Reading. 7,725.
 Scarborough Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1878), 53 Castle Road, Scarborough. 4,198.

Sheerness Medical Benefit Society (1885), 29 Invieta Road, Sheerness. 4,699.
 Shrewsbury Oddfellows' Medical Association (1898), 1 Claremont Hill, Shrewsbury. 2,200.
 South Shields Trades and Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1872), 12 Ogle Terrace, South Shields. 566.
 Stourport Amalgamated Friendly Societies' and General Medical Association (1888), York Street, Stourport. 1,453.
 Trowbridge Friendly Societies' Medical Institute (1875), 1,471.
 Tunbridge Wells Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1882), 17 York Road, Tunbridge Wells. 2,845.
 Warrington Amalgamated Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1878), Palmyra Square, Warrington. 3,108.
 Warwick Friendly Societies' Medical Association, 4 Castle Street, Warwick. 1,421.
 Wellingborough and District Medical Institute (1888), 12 Church Street and Herriott's Lane, Wellingborough. 1,490.
 West Bromwich and District Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1881), 332 High Street, West Bromwich. 1,700.
 Wolverhampton Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1881), Lynton Street, Wolverhampton. 7,376.
 Woolston Amalgamated Medical Association (1909), Burton Villa, Portsmouth Road, Woolston, Southampton. 1,200.
 Worcester Amalgamated Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1870), 4 Shaw Street, Worcester. 6,958.
 York Friendly Societies' Medical Association (1877), Clifford Street, York. 8,303.

MR. W. S. GLYN-JONES, M.P., ON MEDICAL MEN.

Mr. Glyn-Jones communicated to the London morning dailies for Monday of this week a letter in regard to the medical revolt. Three Liberal papers printed it in abstract, but the others ignored it, except "The Times," which returned it with thanks, it having been published elsewhere in the meantime—a sufficient reason. The letter commenced thus :

"One of the beneficent features of the Insurance Act is the enormous change which, given its chance, it will make in the conditions under which the workers of the country at present receive medical treatment. The average chance of the poor man being restored to health is far less than that possessed by those who are better off, and the remuneration at present received by the doctor who attends the workers is out of all proportion to that which is obtained in better-class practices, and is so small that it leads to a doctor attempting to treat far more patients than he can properly attend to. I believe that those who know most about the conditions which pertain in cheap dispensary practices and many club practices would be unanimous in saying that in the interests of patients and doctor they should be drastically modified."

Mr. Glyn-Jones proceeded to compare club practice as it is at present with medical practice as it is expected to be under the Act, remarking :

"It is as essential to the doctors as it is to the public that the worst features of poor and club practices should be removed, and it is surprising that the honest attempt made in the Insurance Act to improve the lot of the poor man, as well as the doctor attending him, has not received fuller recognition at the hands of the profession, most of whom know from experience how great the need for improvement really is. It is because I believe that within the corners of the Act as it now stands are contained possibilities for more efficient medical treatment of the masses, and far better remuneration and conditions for the doctors who attend them, that I respectfully urge the general medical practitioner not blindly to refuse to discuss them with the authorities."

He then described his inquiry in Germany last year, giving the Düsseldorf figures showing how the pooling arrangement there pays doctors and pharmacists, concluding thus :

"I am convinced that if the 'doctors' agitation' is carried to the extent of preventing the full administration of the medical benefits by the authorities constituted under the Act, the question cannot be allowed to rest there. The fullest information relating to the terms and conditions pertaining at present in club and cheap dispensary practices, the quantity and quality of the services rendered and of the remedies supplied, must be ascertained and be made public, and when this is done the State will be compelled to take action. The elastic character of the provisions in

the Insurance Act makes it possible to get for the worker the best services which the profession can provide upon the payment of adequate remuneration for those services. If the profession, after discussing with the Commissioners, come to the conclusion that it is impossible to obtain reasonable terms and conditions, the case for an official and minute inquiry into the whole question will arise. In the event of failure to come to terms with a sufficient number of medical men to enable the scheme for medical benefits as foreshadowed in the Act to be carried out, the Commissioners have powers to either permit the Health Committees to employ whole-time doctors, or simply to allow to the insured persons that proportion of their contribution which would otherwise be allocated to medical benefits, and leave it free to each insured person or any organisation of insured persons, such as the friendly societies, to make their own arrangements with the doctors.

"The employment of whole-time doctors would lead to great bitterness and less efficiency than would be the case if the main scheme were given its chance. The other alternative of abandoning the provision of medical benefits would be such a calamity to the doctors primarily, and ultimately (through the injury inflicted on the doctors) to the public, that I cannot think that the profession will willingly take the responsibility of forcing its adoption without first giving the fullest opportunity for conference and discussion with the Commissioners responsible for the final decision in this matter. The Act provides such an opportunity for improving the doctoring of the million, of placing thousands of hard-worked medical men in a better position to serve their patients more efficiently for more adequate remuneration, as a few months ago they little expected to see in the near future. This improved state of things for themselves and their patients can be brought about without the sacrifice of that good opinion in which the profession has rightly been held by the public."

FIFE DOCTORS.

Various rumours about Fife medical men and their club patients' fees are finding expression in the newspapers. Before the National Insurance Act passed through Parliament the Fife doctors expressed a determination not to accept the Chancellor's terms, and this has now come to be a question of uniting to demand better terms from the friendly societies already in existence. Hitherto doctors have been paid at different rates and under different conditions, and in some cases the payment included medicines. This is all to be stopped. They are united to a man, and have solemnly agreed that in future their terms will be alike all over the country much higher than formerly, in some cases being nearly doubled. Nor will they supply medicine. The new terms are 8s. 8d. per member and 17s. 4d. per family. What is called the "Medical Society," whose members pay in so much per week and can choose a doctor for a year and change the next, has already accepted these terms, and began on January 1. The friendly societies' year runs out about March, and these are now considering the doctors' offer.

"A GUIDE TO THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT, 1911,"

by Mr. H. Wippell Gadd, of the Middle Temple and Western Circuit, barrister-at-law, has been published this week as one of the series of Wilson's Legal Handy Books, at 1s. net. It extends to 144 pages, and is divided into two parts, the first dealing with National Health Insurance and the second with Unemployment Insurance. Mr. Gadd has very cleverly rearranged the statutory provisions so as to give clear and orderly answers to such questions as the following, each of which occupies a chapter: "Who must be insured?" "Who may be insured?" "What are the payments?" "What are the benefits?" "What are the 'Approved Societies' and how must they be managed?" "Who are 'Deposit Contributors'?" Mr. Gadd's pharmaceutical training and knowledge of medical practice are reflected in the notes which he appends on the medical benefit section. For example, he states that "there is no authoritative definition of dispensing," but he quotes Mr. Justice Lush's *obiter dictum* in the case of *Berrie v. Henderson*, and adds:

"Apparently, therefore, if a medical practitioner, employed under this Act orders an insured person to take, for example, cod-liver oil without specific directions, the insured person can obtain that article from any person, firm, or corporate body included in the list of authorised suppliers of drugs and medicines; but if a medical prac-

itioner prescribes, with directions, any drug or medicine for an insured person so that the supply of it comes within the definition of dispensing, such supply can only be made by a person, firm, or body corporate entitled to carry on the business of a chemist or druggist under the provisions of the Pharmacy Acts."

This is far from being conclusive, but it is perhaps just as well in this, as in many other matters connected with the National Insurance Act, to "wait and see."

Royal Institution.

DR. J. A. HARKER discoursed on February 9 on "Very High Temperatures," with Sir William Crookes in the chair. He began by stating that a century ago Michael Faraday entered that institution for the first time, having been given tickets for the last four lectures of a series by Davy on radiant matter. He was then in the last year of his apprenticeship to a bookseller, and had been given the tickets by Mr. Dance, one of his master's customers. Faraday sat over the clock in the lecture-theatre, which remains exactly in the same form as in 1812, and made copious notes of the lectures. These notes were afterwards written up and bound in a volume by his own hands. Faraday wrote to Davy and sent the book for his inspection, with the consequence that in 1813 he was engaged as an assistant at the salary of 25s. a week and rooms. This book, under a glass case, was shown on the table, and in front was one cell of the 200-cell Volta pile which was employed at the lectures which Faraday heard. This Volta pile was purchased in 1807 by subscription, at a cost of 500*l.*, and it was with the current generated by this battery—the strongest that had up to that time been obtained—that Davy was able to isolate potassium. The battery produced a powerful arc, and the lecturer, emphasising the truth of the old adage "There is nothing new under the sun," said that in 1912 the maximum temperature obtainable is very little more. Briefly dealing with the manner of fixing thermometer scales and the variation in the ranges of high and low temperatures, the lecturer mentioned that he had been in Leyden a fortnight previously, and Professor Onnes told him that in recalculating the temperatures obtained by evaporating a litre of liquid helium at one-fifth mm. pressure, he (Professor Onnes) is convinced that he had obtained the temperature of 1.15 absolute. The upper limits of temperature cover a much wider range than does low temperature. The various kinds of thermometers, thermo-couples, and pyrometers were then mentioned, and it was stated that silica thermometer tubes have recently been produced which should be valuable aids to physicists. With silica there is "no nonsense about the zero" was how he expressed the fact that silica thermometers will not show the weakness of glass. To give an idea of temperature, he drew attention to a series of figures, showing the approximate temperature and colour of a fire, these being in Fahrenheit, he explained, so as to be more readily compared. A fire that can only just be seen, and showing a grey colour, is of the temperature of 850° F., very dull red 950°, dull red 1,300°, cherry-red 1,650°, orange 2,000°, white 2,400°, and dazzling white 2,750°. The lecturer then dealt with the types of electric furnaces, some of these being in the lecture-room. With one type it is easy to obtain 1,600° C. on a small scale, and up to 5,000° on a large scale. A form in which a spiral of Acheson's graphite is used was also commended, and reference was then made to a non-graphite form which has been devised at the National Physical Laboratory. In this new furnace rods of refractory earth are employed, such as Nernst uses in his electric lamps. Some interesting facts were mentioned about these rare-earth tubes—the shrinkage that takes place in baking and the curious powdery crust which forms on the outside. An experiment was then shown with one of these furnaces, which resulted in the lighting up of a circle of electric lamps, this being, the lecturer said, a new direct method of generating electricity from heat. Attention was then

called to temperatures attained by various substances, as follows :

	C.		C.
Absolute zero ...	-273°	Gold melts ...	1,062°
Helium boils -269°	to -272°	Copper melts ...	1,100°
Hydrogen boils ...	-253°	Pure iron melts ...	1,500°
Oxygen boils ...	-183°	Firebricks soften	
Carbon dioxide boils	-78°		1,400° to 1,800°
Mercury freezes ...	-39°	Silica softens	1,500° to 1,600°
Water freezes ...	0°	Platinum melts ...	1,750°
Water boils ...	100°	Silver boils ...	1,950°
Tin melts ...	232°	Tin boils ...	2,270°
Lead melts ...	327°	Copper boils ...	2,510°
Mercury boils ...	357°	Iron boils ...	2,450°
Zinc melts ...	419°	Tantalum melts ...	2,900°
Sulphur melts ...	445°	Tungsten melts ...	3,000°
Aluminium melts ...	657°	Carbon-arc tempera-	
Common salt melts...	801°	ture ...	3,400°
Zinc boils ...	918°	Highest terrestrial	
Silver melts ...	961°	temperature ...	3,600°

The lecture finished with a remarkable demonstration of tin being boiled in an electric furnace. Over the crucible was placed a large convex lens, which projected on the ceiling an image of the boiling tin. The tin presently began to splutter and throw out globules of metal, which became oxide before they reached the floor.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

Temperatures under this heading are on the Centigrade scale.

Foam-producer.—A German patent has been granted for the preparation of a foam-producer, consisting of a preparation of liquorice-root from which the glycyrrhizin has been removed by means of dilute acid. The filtered extract is neutralised and evaporated to a syrupy consistence. The product gives an intense foam in most potable liquids, and no precipitation occurs, as is usually the case when glycyrrhizin is present. (D.R.P. No. 240035.)

Lemongrass Oils are dealt with in Part II. of the Imperial Institute report on "Aromatic Grass Oils" ("Bull. Imp. Inst.," vol. ix., No. 4, p. 334). The materials reported on are from experimental cultivation in new localities or under new conditions. The grass yielding three lemongrass oils from Ceylon was identified by Dr. Stapf as *Cymbopogon citratus*. The oil yielded was of the insoluble class, not being soluble in even 10 volumes of 90-per-cent. alcohol. The leaves yielded 0.22 to 0.37 per cent. of oil of a sp. gr. at 15° ranging from 0.891 to 0.893, optical rotation

-0° 25' to +1° 7', and containing 74 to 76 per cent. of citral. Two other samples of Ceylon oil were abnormal, one being a poor sample of "soluble" oil of the *C. flexuosus* type, and the other behaving like a mixture of citronella and lemongrass oils. The normal oils confirm Dr. Stapf's statement that *C. citratus* is the source of so-called "insoluble" lemongrass oil. Samples from India were forwarded by the Economic Botanist at Dacca. These comprised:

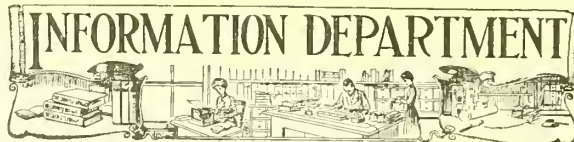
No. 1. "Tyрна lemongrass oil," of deep yellow colour, with usual odour (sp. gr. 0.9021, opt. rot. -0° 20', citral 72.5 per cent., value 2½d. per oz.).

No. 2. "Cochin lemongrass oil," of deep yellow colour and fine but most pungent odour (sp. gr. 0.9053, opt. rot. -0° 39', citral 84.5 per cent., value 3½d. per oz.).

No. 3. "Mariani lemongrass oil," of golden-brown colour and usual odour (sp. gr. 0.9140, opt. rot. -0° 5', citral 73 per cent.).

No. 4. "Ceylon lemongrass oil," deep yellow with usual odour (sp. gr. 0.9058, opt. rot. -0° 6', citral 76 per cent.).

The "Cochin" oil is soluble in two volumes of 70-per-cent. alcohol, and its high citral-content would encourage its cultivation if the grass grows well and gives a good yield of leaves. The other three Indian oils are of the "insoluble" type. A chemical examination of Uganda lemongrass oil shows it to be an "insoluble" oil derived from *C. cristatus*, and to have the constants: Sp. gr. 0.870 to 0.890, opt. rot. -0° 24' to +0° 10', citral-content 64.5 to 75 per cent. In 1909-10 the exports of lemongrass oil from Uganda amounted to 16,063 oz., valued at 72l. The distillation, which was at first undertaken under Government control, has now been taken over by a commercial firm. A sample of lemongrass oil from Bermuda (sp. gr. 0.8089, opt. rot. -0° 21', citral 40 per cent.) sent for examination to the Institute in 1907 shows that, owing to low citral-content, it is unlikely to compete with the richer Indian oils. A Montserrat lemongrass oil reported on in 1904 contained 74 per cent. of citral.



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INFORMATION WANTED.

We would be obliged if any reader would inform us by post-card or telephone who are the makers or agents of the articles mentioned in the following inquiries:

- 76/72. "Iodat" tablets.
- 75/27. "Zelera" syringe.
- 68/73. Cachets "Facon."
- 68/72. Brine's hop-pillow.
- 66/17. "Ajax" shoulder-braces.
- 68/71. M. F. Morrison's hair-dye.
- 76/720. "Edlein" headache-cure.
- 67/17. "Shell" brand Castile soap.
- 55/38. Gammon's lozenges: supply.
- 62/50. Fly-gun spreading machines.
- 77/13. "Ideal" syrup of figs: makers.
- 72/69. Ozonic cotton (for blood-testing).
- 76/71. "Gambuy" toilet pumice-paper.
- 74/13. "Sanitary" suspensory-bandage.
- 74/9. Dr. Henry's Indian remedy for piles.
- 60/27. Buckley's pad (for whooping-cough).
- 70/14. "Three Daggers" brand linseed oil.
- 75/25. "Sevoline" (London & Paris Toilet Co.): address.
- 75/39. "Melissa Citrate": what is it, and who supplies?
- 68/12. "Sel Gris" (grey salt) for pathological work and for vaginal injection.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

During the past week we have answered inquiries as to the makers or sellers of the following articles. The information will be repeated to other inquirers who send to this Department a stamped and addressed envelope for the purpose.

- Acetic acid, 69/49
- Ammonol, 70/28
- Angus's worm balls for dogs, 72/59
- "Anticor" safety razor, 70/37
- Arbenz corn-files, 75/26
- Argentamin, 70/10
- "Bengall" razor, 74/14
- "Bisol" plaster, 69/400
- Blair's pills, 74/20
- "Breethzehili" asthma cigarettes, 73/5
- Business register (McQueen's) 73/28
- Chemists' auctioneers (Lancashire), 73/71
- "Chemists" emulsion, 72/60
- Cunard's preparations, 74/19
- Diaphol, 70/10
- Eau de Cernes (London agents), 67/4
- "Eezee" paint remover, 131/28
- Emol Keleet, 69/23
- Fat Foe (Fiedler), 69/4
- "Formosa" sponge, 70/37
- Fuller's Earth Cream, 69/230
- Glycerol Papoid, 75/35
- Gibb's hollow suppositories, 71/1
- Guipsine, 69/3
- Hedley's ethyl chloride (German inquiry), 71/56
- Holroyd's tablet-machines, 69/54
- "Kanda" liquid metal-polish, 69/231
- Keratin capsules, 71/30
- "Lactoline" toilet preparations, 72/16
- Lignola, 70/34.
- "Mercolised wax," 68/73
- Mikkura, 74/9
- Mirbane oil (inquiry from Cuba), 72/12
- Moss wadding, 68/72
- Mustard-oil pressing machinery (for Assam), 71/14
- Neal's "Olivine," 71/43
- "New Excelsior" fountain syringe, 74/38
- Oxylithe, 71/21
- "Perfection" wrist-straps, 74/8
- Peter Return dressings, 72/58
- Potassium chlorate (Cuban inquiry), 72/12
- "Public Speaking" tuition, 67/4
- "Queen Mab" vaporiser, 74/800
- Saltpetre (for Havana), 72/120
- "Sepol," 75/36
- "Seven Barks," 69/53
- "Sublimior" hair-wash, 67/35
- "Syrolit" boxes, 60/54
- Tanargentan, 70/100
- Thymoform, 70/44
- Vacuum flasks, 70/63 and 72/30
- Voltaic discs, 66/17
- Wilkinson's proprietary preparations, 72/62
- Willard-Bell truss, 149/23
- Young's patent hygienic bins, 70/8
- Zinco-quinol, 70/10

OBSERVATIONS & REFLECTIONS.

By Xrayser II.

Booking-fees

have often been a source of trouble between the wholesaler and retailer, and it would be well were some system adopted that would get rid of them. I would like to hear the carriers' views on the subject, for there must surely be something to be said in defence of a charge that seems to me indefensible. Why should a retailer object to pay the booking-fee? It is he, and not the wholesaler, who makes the contract with the carrier. Assuming there were no contract, the parcel is made up and sent by rail and no booking-fee is payable, and I really cannot see why the wholesaler should be called upon to pay 2d. because a customer has made a contract to get his parcels carried at a cheap rate. The system seems to be an admission by the carrier that his contract rates are too low. It is undoubtedly the case that some chemists make it a routine practice to have a daily parcel by carrier, and this means booking-fees amounting to 2l. 12s. in the course of a year. Would it not be distinctly fairer to raise the contract rates, and thus get rid of an irritating and ambiguous charge which wholesaler and retailer alike think they ought not to be asked to pay?

A Universal Half-holiday

on "the same day for all trades and all districts," which is advocated by your Belfast correspondent, is a rather large order. It is possible that he is speaking of Belfast alone, but in that case his letter might have been more clearly expressed. From some points of view it would be quite ideal if the shopkeepers of the country should have a half-holiday in the middle of every week, just as the working-men have a half-holiday (in the towns) on the Saturday, but from others the notion is hopelessly impracticable. What, for example, would such a change mean to the travellers of wholesale firms? Simply that instead of having five days in which to solicit orders, as at present, their week would be cut down to four days. Saturday is to all intents and purposes a *dies non* for commercials, and it is the recognition of this fact that has developed the week-end ticket to such an extent.

The Early-closing Movement

appears to be making rapid headway in Australia. This is, I suppose, one of the fruits of the advent of democratic government in that great country. It is very difficult for outsiders to realise the change, and especially the causes for such a change, that has come over a whole continent, and in such a short time. This phenomenon leads one to hope that some such change is possible even in Great Britain. That it is seriously and urgently required in many districts is only too clear, for I am not sure but that "Anglo-Parisian's" figures can easily be paralleled even to-day. On the other hand, it is possible to have too much of a good thing, and compulsory closing of chemists' shops in working-class districts at 6 or even 7 o'clock would seem to be an heroic measure for most of us; certainly public opinion would not submit to it here. Again, the pressure of unqualified competition is felt here as it cannot possibly be felt in a new country, so that I do not look forward to 6 o'clock closing, at least in my time.

Gregory's Powder

made with the carbonate of magnesia is, from the pharmacist's point of view, more satisfactory

than that made with the oxide; but whether it is better therapeutically is another question, and one which does not immediately concern us. Evidently Gregory preferred the latter, since he prescribed the oxide, and in this he followed the medical opinion of his day. Clarke says of magnesia, *e.g.*: "Where the stomach affections are accompanied with much flatulence, it is preferable to the carbonate, as it is deprived of its acid, and neutralises that of the stomach, and contains more magnesia in a given bulk." Its Dublin name was magnesia usta, and this is what Gregory wrote; he is said to have varied the proportion of the ingredients of his powder. The fact, however, remains, as stated in the case reported last week, that old-fashioned chemists preferred the carbonate; during my apprenticeship we always used the heavy variety, but at that time there was no official standard. I do not know who is responsible for the synonym "Improved Gregory's Powder" adopted in the "British Pharmaceutical Codex," and I fancy pharmacists will not be prepared to accept the "authority" of that work. The fewer authorities we have, the better. Dr. Hartley, a celebrated physician of the mid-eighteenth century, had a formula older than Gregory's which may be quoted:

Take of magnesia alba, 10 grains.

Of rhubarb in powder, and aniseeds in powder, of each, 3 grains.

Mix for a dose.

The magnesia alba of those days was not calcined.

The Recommendations

of the Council of the British Medical Association to be considered at the meeting of delegates on February 20 and 21 are not very happily worded, and in one or two instances their meaning is open to question. What, we may reasonably ask, is to be understood by the word "requirements" in Recommendations I. and II.? In ordinary use "requirement" means either a want, a need, as in the phrase "the requirements of the sick," or something demanded, a condition to be complied with, as in the sentence "the professors are under the requirement to teach." Which of these meanings does it bear in these recommendations? If, as from their peremptory tone seems most likely, the latter, we may amend Recommendation I. thus: "That the Council be instructed to press upon the Government and the Commissioners the further conditions necessary for securing the conditions of the profession," which reminds us of De Quincey's parody of Johnson: "Let Observation with extensive observation observe mankind extensively." In any case—whether we are to understand that it is the needs or the demands of the profession that must be met as a preliminary to negotiation—negotiation would seem to be rather superfluous after they have been met. Have the doctors some further "requirements" up their sleeve?

AN ACTION SETTLED.

Mr. Justice Hamilton, in the King's Bench Division on February 15, had before him, with a common jury, an action by Messrs. Francis Newbery & Sons, Ltd., 27 and 28 Charterhouse Square, London, E.C., against Mr. Alcywn Harries in respect to alleged breach of contract of service and an alleged debt due in balance of an account.

The defendant—a traveller—denied liability.

Upon the case being called and the issues stated, there was a consultation between counsel, Mr. Sanderson, K.C., and Mr. R. Moritz (for the plaintiffs) and Mr. Lewis Thomas, K.C., and Mr. Merlin (for the defendant), and it was announced by Mr. Sanderson that a settlement had been arrived at on terms. Counsel did not disclose the terms, and his Lordship assented to the settlement.

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Editorial Articles.

Lassar's and Unna's Pastes.

UNDER the Medicine Stamp-duty Acts the Revenue authorities have been accustomed to regard the use of a surname in the titles of a medicine as an ostensible claim to a proprietary right or to some occult secret or art in the preparation of the remedy. Special exceptions were made with regard to "Blaud's Pills" and "Gregory's Powder." As the result of a correspondence which we had with the Board of Inland Revenue in 1904 the following medicines were pronounced to be free from liability so far as the titles are concerned—viz., Liver Pills (Sir Andrew Clark), Hamilton's Pills, Christison's Pills, and Dobell's Aperient. At the same time we were informed that the Board would treat in the same way other remedies in respect of which equally satisfactory evidence of the absence of any claim to proprietary title or to exclusive knowledge of composition could be submitted. We have now had the opportunity of submitting to the Board of Customs and Excise particulars regarding the origin of Lassar's and Unna's Pastes, which are now common articles of retail in pharmacy, and the following letter from the Board intimates that these have been added to the list:

No. 3039/1912, Custom House, London,
 February 13, 1912.

SIR.—I have laid before the Board of Customs and Excise your letter of the 25th ultimo in regard to Lassar's Paste, Lassar's Eczema-paste, Unna's Paste, and Unna's Eczema-paste.

In view of the evidence adduced that these articles are not now proprietary, and of your assurance that they never have been proprietary, the Board will not regard them as rendered liable to medicine stamp-duty merely by reason of the use of the originators' names in the possessive case.

Except where the articles are sold by privileged vendors under the conditions of the "known, admitted, and approved" remedy exemption, they would, of course, be rendered liable to duty by the implied recommendation of their use for the treatment of eczema.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
 J. P. BYRNE, Secretary.

The Editor of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST,
 42 Cannon Street, E.C.

This is the first occasion on which the Board of Customs and Excise have dealt with this concession, and it is satisfactory to note that they continue the practice of the Board of Inland Revenue. The list in the *Chemists' and Druggists' Diary*, p. 444, is thus extended by the addition of four names, which we print in italics:

Blaud's Pills.
 Christison's Pills.
 Liver Pills (Sir Andrew Clark).
 Dobell's Aperient.
 Easton's Syrup.
 Gregory's Powder.
 Hamilton's Pills.
 Lassar's Paste.
 Lassar's Eczema-paste.
 Pagenstecher's Eye-ointment.
 Pagenstecher's Ointment.
 Parrish's Chemical Food.
 Parrish's Syrup.
 Rhinitis Tablets (Lincoln).
 Stokes's Chest-liniment.

Stokes's Expectorant-mixture.
Stokes's Liniment.
Stokes's Mixture.
Stokes's Rheumatic Liniment.
Unna's Paste.
Unna's Eczema-paste.

All of these exemptions but one and the original two have been obtained through evidence submitted by THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. We may also recall the fact that the opinion which we obtained from Sir Robert Finlay, K.C., had much to do with the Board of Inland Revenue's concession as to Bland's Pills and Gregory's Powder. We call particular attention to the last paragraph of Mr. Byrne's letter, which means that Lassar's Eczema-paste, Rhinitis Tablets (Lincoln), Stokes's Rheumatic Liniment, and Unna's Eczema-paste may only be sold unstamped under these titles by registered chemists, companies legally carrying on business as such, and those who are recognised by the Board to have served a regular apprenticeship to a chemist or other exempted person, as specified in the schedule to the Act of 1812. This is the first occasion on which this legal limitation has been pointed out by the authorities, and its significance should not be overlooked.

An Insurance Alternative.

To chemists and druggists the crucial point of the speech on the National Insurance Act delivered by Mr. Lloyd George on Monday afternoon lies in the alternative for administration of medical benefit in the event of medical men declining to work under Section 15 of the Act. "The Times" report of his remarks on the point is accurate, and we append it:

"There are such things as medical institutes and dispensaries. There are about seventy or eighty of them already established where men are engaged in a whole or contract service, and they are spreading. If you want to encourage them, get up a doctors' strike. That is the way to help them along. (Laughter.) They are running them now at 4s. a head. Under this Bill there will be 6s., and if the doctors refuse to work the Act the working-classes cannot be without medical assistance. So medical institutes and medical dispensaries will swarm in the land. My second warning to them [doctors] is this. It was with great difficulty we got these safeguards in [Section 15]. There are friendly-society men here, and they know that we came pretty near quarrelling with the friendly societies in order to protect the doctors. The greatest trouble we had in our relations with the friendly societies was that we insisted upon putting these safeguards in, because it looked like a want of confidence in the friendly societies, and they resented it. If the doctors throw these safeguards over, if in future the money is to be paid to the friendly societies and the old relations are to be resumed, let them not forget that, while we found it very difficult when we were facing societies with four million or five million members, there will be fourteen million members in the future. Do they think any Government will take the risk of reassuming those powers in the face of those fourteen million people after the experience we have had with the doctors? (Cheers.)"

We observe that "The Times" questions editorially if the medical benefit can be handed over to friendly societies, saying that the money has to be paid to the insured persons, and not to the societies, but Sub-section 2 gives the Commissioners wide powers. If they are satisfied that the statutory arrangements with medical men cannot be carried out, the Commissioners may dispense with them, and do one of three things—viz.:

- (1) Authorise the Health Committees to make other arrangements.
- (2) Make such arrangements as they [the Commissioners] think fit.
- (3) Suspend the right to medical benefit in respect of any insured persons in the area for such period as they think fit, and pay to each such person a sum equal to the estimated cost of his medical benefit.

These are the provisions which Mr. Lloyd George had in mind; probably also the terms of Sub-section 3, which enable the Commissioners to allow insured persons to make their own arrangements for medical attendance and treatment, including medicines and appliances. Much has been said about these provisions in the daily Press during the past fortnight, but only Mr. Lloyd George has linked them up with Sub-section 4 (the Harmsworth Amendment), and thereby accentuated the danger to chemists, as well as doctors, which was recognised at the time the amendment was introduced. Its terms are as follows:

"The regulations shall provide that, in the case of persons who are entitled to receive medical attendance and treatment under any system or through any institution existing at the time of the passing of this Act and approved by the Insurance Committee and the Insurance Commissioners, such medical attendance and treatment may be treated as, or as part of, their medical benefit under this Part of this Act, and may provide for the Committee contributing towards the expenses thereof the whole or any part of the sums which would be contributed in the case of persons who have made their own arrangements as aforesaid, so, however, that such regulations shall secure that no person be deprived of his right, if he so elects, of selecting the duly qualified medical practitioner by whom he wishes to be attended and treated, in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this section."

It will be seen that Mr. Lloyd George's statement means that the one of three things which the Commissioners will do is to extend this provision for existing institutions so as to provide for all insured persons. The result of this would be that chemists and druggists, companies, and drug-store keepers would get little or nothing to do in the supply of medicines and medical and surgical appliances, and this would mean that about ten million persons who are customers, or potential customers, at present, would be handed over to these institutions and dispensaries for their medicines.

These "storm centres" will remain under the Act, and to what extent they will be added to depends, we now learn from Mr. Lloyd George, upon the decision of the doctors. It is well to keep in mind that their services under the Act will not be required until January 15, 1913, and a great deal may happen before that to modify the antagonism which exists at present. Of the British Medical Association's six cardinal points, four have been enacted, and provision made for the remaining two. If the Association and the Commissioners come to an agreement upon these, the way will be clear for administration of the medical benefit without resource to the friendly societies, and it is towards this end that chemists and druggists should use their influence, otherwise they will lose business, as there is no prospect of the Act being annulled, or becoming a dead letter.

Lister and Listerism.

LISTER.—On February 10, at Walmer, the Right Hon. Lord Lister, O.M., F.R.S., in the eighty-fifth year of his age. No flowers, by request.—*The Times*.

A MAN who leaves his name in his native language as the description of an art which has saved millions of lives in his lifetime is rare in human history, and such a man was Joseph Lister, the discoverer of the antiseptic system of treatment in surgery, who died on Saturday of last week from an attack of pneumonia. He was the son of Joseph Jackson Lister, F.R.S., a distinguished microscopist and a member of the Society of Friends. His birthplace was Upton in Essex, and after his elementary education at Friends' schools he completed his classical and mathematical studies at University College, London,

graduating as B.A.Lond. in 1847. He continued at the College as a medical student, and became M.B.Lond. and F.R.C.S.Eng. in 1852. After a short period at University College Hospital as a resident surgeon he visited Edinburgh, taking with him a letter from Professor Sharpey, then of world-wide reputation, to Professor Syme, who held the Surgery chair in the Edinburgh University, and the visit became a sojourn in Scotland of about a quarter of a century, during which he had discovered and perfected the antiseptic system of surgical treatment, filled the chairs of Surgery in Glasgow University (1860-69) and in Edinburgh University (1869-77), and became known throughout the civilised world as a distinguished surgeon and one of the greatest benefactors to humanity. In 1856 he married Agnes, the daughter of Professor Syme, and became an extra-mural lecturer in surgery of the Edinburgh Medical School, which he retained until his appointment to the Glasgow chair. He was a chemist and histologist of no mean ability, and was quick to appreciate the significance of Pasteur's work on fermentation, which led to the observation that that process and putrefaction are the result of micro-organisms living upon the organic matter which ferments or putrefies. Hitherto the processes were regarded as chemical changes, inevitable as effervescence when a carbonate and an acid are mixed. It was Lister who linked together Pasteur's researches on fermentation that had gone wrong owing to foreign germs, with the "surgical fever," which at that time was the scourge of hospitals, and he patiently experimented until he proved that by the application of germicidal protection to wounds they healed "by first intention" far more frequently than by the old and recognised methods. His discovery was announced in 1865, but several years elapsed before there was much recognition of the value of his discovery—the methods were crude and the antiseptic preparations clumsy and complicated. Lister applied himself to the improvement of methods and preparations, pharmacists in Glasgow and Edinburgh helping him. In 1869 he succeeded his father-in-law in the Edinburgh chair, and then the antiseptic treatment began to be better appreciated, while graduates from Edinburgh carried the *rationale* of the treatment to all parts of the world. As it came to be more commonly used, Lister had helpers in its improvement, not the poorest helpers being the critics. We need not elaborate the progress of Listerism; to-day it means the performance of surgical operations under germless or aseptic conditions, and it means for the human race successful surgical treatment of diseases which were invariably fatal forty years ago, because of the putrefaction which followed the surgeon's knife. Lister was called to King's College, London, in 1877, and remained there until 1893 as Professor of Clinical Surgery, meanwhile having a lucrative practice as a consultant. He had many academic and scientific honours, became a Baronet in 1883, and a Baron of the United Kingdom in 1897, the latter honour being for the first time conferred on a medical practitioner, and he was one of the first to receive the Order of Merit from King Edward VII., whom he had attended when he was operated upon for appendicitis by Sir Frederick Treves. He influenced pharmacy in so far as Listerism has called for new chemical and galenical preparations. An excellent example is furnished in Mr. Lucas's paper on ointments in this issue. This ancient class of preparations was changed by Lister calling for a protective basis which he found in the paraffins. The demand for antiseptic dressings has created a new pharmaceutical industry, and Lord Lister was as interested in these minor develop-

ments of his discoveries as he was in the operative side. His election in 1893 as an honorary member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain was a tribute not only to his fame as a surgeon, but his accomplishments in chemical research. He was a frequent guest of the Society during his active years, and it is well when the world pays tribute to his life's work that we pharmacists should remember that pharmacists worked with him in his discovery, and that he was the first to acknowledge their services to him.

"Boost for Rexall!"

This is the title of an article by "Scrutator" in "Truth" for February 14, which occupies nearly two pages. It deals somewhat caustically with the United Drug Co., quoting freely from THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST regarding the operations of the company in Canada and the United States, and the visit of Mr. R. A. Robinson, ex-President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and four other gentlemen to the Convention at Boston last September. It tells about some of the advertising methods of the company and its agents. Referring to our interview with Mr. R. A. Robinson, the writer says:

"Mr. Robinson did not give any details of the proceedings at the annual Convention which he attended. This is a pity, because, judging from a report in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of September 25, a Rexall Convention is not the least remarkable and instructive illustration of Rexall methods. Piety as well as philanthropy plays a part in them." [Here follow particulars and the "Boost for Rexall to-day" song.]

"Individual chemists must, of course, decide for themselves whether it will be worth their while to attach themselves to the United Drug Co. in the dual capacity of shareholders and boosters of Rexall remedies. It may be well for them, however, to bear in mind what Mr. Liggett, the President, said at the 'convention' at Boston in October: 'We are preparing to open in England as a separate company, composed largely of English people, but controlled, of course, by this company.'"

Then follow characteristic "Scrutator" reflections, concluding with Mr. Robinson's observation, "There is nothing like it in England," put in a far from flattering fashion.

Misplaced Ingenuity.

The latest report to the Local Government Board on Public Health and Medical Subjects (No. 60), by Dr. G. W. Monier-Williams, has reference to certain proprietary substances sold as preservatives for milk. The object of the makers of the preservatives has been to produce a substance which, while acting as an efficient preservative, escapes detection by chemical analysis. One of these preparations sold under the name of "Mystin" was found to consist of 9.85 per cent. solution of sodium nitrite, containing 0.3 per cent. of formaldehyde and a trace of an essential oil, probably peppermint. Milk treated with the preservative as recommended by the makers contains about 2 grains of sodium nitrite in a quart, which is the maximum pharmacopœial dose of this substance. The object of the sodium nitrite appears to be to inhibit the Hehner reaction for formaldehyde, so that in ordinary routine examinations of milk samples for preservatives such a sample might be passed as genuine. The report discusses the reason for this inhibition, and it is suggested that some reaction occurs between nitrous acid and the tryptophane which is present among the products of hydrolysis of milk casein, with the result that the tryptophane is rendered incapable of condensing with the formaldehyde. The sodium nitrite present is approximately equivalent to the tryptophane in the casein. It is recommended that the Griess-Ilosvay

test for nitrites be employed as a routine test for nitrites in milk. Other preservatives analysed include "Accoine," which contains 15.97 per cent. of sodium benzoate and 1.94 per cent. of sodium carbonate. It is claimed also that this cannot be detected by analysis; but it has been shown that the detection of benzoic acid in milk is a comparatively simple matter. Another margarine-preservative was found to consist almost entirely of sodium fluoride, and it is suggested that the bleaching action exerted by fluorine compounds upon a peroxidised titanium solution might be utilised as a useful routine test. Ten grams of the sample is melted and shaken in a separating funnel with ether and 1 or 2 c.c. of water. The aqueous layer is run off into a test-tube, a few drops of hydrogen peroxide added and 1 c.c. of a solution containing about 2 per cent. of titanium sulphate in 10-per-cent. sulphuric acid. A blank test is made in exactly the same way on 10 grams of pure butter or margarine. If the original sample contained fluorine the orange-yellow colour of the peroxidised titanium solution will be partially discharged. The presence of 0.1 per cent. of sodium fluoride or silicofluoride is easily detected by this test. The use of sulphites as cream-preservatives is comparatively rare, but one was recently examined and found to consist of a mixture of sodium metasilphite and sodium sulphate.

Almanacks, Diaries, etc.

THE DISPENSARY, LTD., Penang, send us a copy of their wall-calendar, which is an attractive publication. There is in the centre a picture in colours of a lady in a ball-dress.

MR. SAMUEL LAWRENCE, chemist and druggist, Oban, has this year clothed his West Highland Almanac in an aluminium decorated cover. The printing on this being in blue makes the almanack a tasteful production. There is again a missing-letter competition, which has for some years been a feature of the book. The local information is very full.

"THE WELSHPOOL ALMANACK," published by Mr. H. Payne, dispensing chemist, 16 Broad Street, is quite a thick book, and contains as a feature an index of places, persons, names, and things concerning Welshpool. There is a review of the local events of the past year, and much local information which will interest those to whom the almanack is issued.

SMITH BROS. & Co., The Bonanza Drug Store, Port of Spain and Sangre Grande, Trinidad, B.W.I., issue a blotter and diary. The diary pages contain space upon each for a fortnight, the blotting-paper with which they are interleaved being printed with advertisements. The announcements refer to the firm's own products or to those for which they hold special agencies. The diary is about the size of an ordinary issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

THE NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY, whose head offices are at York, have struck out a line in calendars which is strikingly original. The calendar is supplied in a metal frame (10 in. by 8 in.), and there is a separate card for each month of the year. The twelve cards are placed together in the frame, the cards being removed month by month. A feature of the cards is a series of illustrations in colour of the large industries of the country to which the railway acts as an indispensable feeder. These comprise such scenes as pig-iron making, a cement-factory, limestone-quarrying, fish-selling, an electric-power station, timber-storage, etc. The illustrations are splendidly designed and carried out.

THIBET MUSK.—In reporting on the trade of Chungking, the American Consul states that trade was exceptionally brisk during the year, and the excessive destruction of the deer has already depleted large sections of Thibet of this animal. Practically all the musk is sent *via* parcel-post to Shanghai.

CHEMISTS' WINDOWS.

New ideas for dressing windows are invited. Photographs of windows sent to the Editor for reproduction should be accompanied by notes on how the displays were arranged.



A Pine Speciality Window.

THE photograph by Mr. F. H. Rowcroft, chemist and druggist, 66 Week Street, Maidstone, of his window-show for pushing pine specialities is practically self-descriptive. The background consists of a picture of pine-forest scenery, while the window-bottom is occupied by an electric train carrying samples of the various goods displayed with showcards in the centre. The engine was driven by accumulator, and it ran for about three hours at a time. Showcards also line the window-front at the base. The depth of the window proved a drawback, as a more effective display could have been made if it had been deeper. However, the window proved an immense attraction, and resulted in greatly increased sales of the products shown.

POISONING FATALITIES.

SEVEN deaths due to taking poisons have been reported since our last issue.

Chloral.—Dr. Robert Hope Alston Hunter, of Hayes, near Uxbridge, died through taking an accidental overdose of chloral.

Laudanum.—At the inquest on William Tremayne Phillips (55), retired beer retailer, Chorlton-on-Medlock, a Coroner's jury returned an open verdict. A *post-mortem* examination of deceased revealed traces of laudanum, and it was stated that a glass measure which smelt of the drug was found on the mantelpiece.—Alfred Horstead (49), upholsterer, Roydon, died in the Edmonton Infirmary from laudanum-poisoning.—At Bethnal Green, Philip Lineham (57), Army pensioner, committed suicide by taking this opiate.

Potassium Cyanide.—Joseph Sykes (24), insurance clerk, Manchester, poisoned himself by taking prussic acid. He purchased the poison from a chemist on the pretence that it was for use in photography.

Kind not Stated.—John Mountney, keeper of Newark Castle, killed himself by taking poison. A medical man gave it as his opinion that deceased had taken some weed-killer.—Ellen Fretton (30), married woman, of Morning Lane, Hackney, London, N.E., died from the effects of intentionally taking poison.

NEWPORT (MON.) PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION.—A meeting was held on February 13. There were present Messrs. Gratte (President), Giles, Findlay, Davis, Bodgett, Menhennick, Williams, Shirley, and Lloyd Jones (Hon. Secretary). Mr. Shirley read a paper on *Some Accidents of the History of Chemistry*, and received a vote of thanks. A general conversation took place on trade matters.

NEW ZEALAND HONEY.—Reporting on shipments of honey from New Zealand to the London market, made up in 2-lb. blocks wrapped in parchment paper and enclosed in cardboard boxes, the High Commissioner considers there is little likelihood of a payable market being found for honey packed in this form. The wholesale trade expressed the opinion that the quality of the honey was excellent, but in every instance the form of package was condemned as being unsuitable for the British market. Retailers approached on the matter said the package would not suit their trade.

The Ointments of the British Pharmacopoeia.

By E. W. Lucas, F.I.C., F.C.S., Pharmaceutical Chemist.

JAMES WATT once wrote: "Of all things most wanted in mechanical engineering is a book of failures, a book of blots." Substituting "pharmacy" for "mechanical engineering," it is equally true to-day. Records are required of experiments that turned out unsuccessfully, of formulæ that have been found wanting. By many it is thought that the British Pharmacopoeia contains a record of some of the failures in the matter of formulæ, the ointments especially having suffered adverse comment; but, perhaps, if the critics had recorded *all* their own experiments and at the same time stated clearly in what particulars any of the formulæ fell short of their ideals, more progress might have been made. Destructive criticism is both pleasant and easy, but constructive criticism entails the expenditure of time and labour.

The writer does not profess to be a spendthrift of either of the latter, and is deeply conscious of lack of ability to devise formulæ entirely satisfactory to himself or to others, but it is hoped that these few lines on the subject of ointments may form the basis of a useful discussion, in the course of which those responsible for the production of the Pharmacopoeia may receive much-needed and valuable help. In point of fact, what is wanted just now is not so much those expert with scissors and paste as pharmacists with practical knowledge willing to publish a record of their work. Although the Secretary of the Committee of Reference in Pharmacy has on more than one occasion invited help of any kind, it is lamentable to think how small a number of pharmacists have made any response.

The collated criticisms of numerous writers, both medical and pharmaceutical, seem to indicate that but few of the official ointments meet the requirements for which they were originally devised, but the suggestions for improvement are so exceedingly diverse that it is a practical impossibility for them all to be reconciled. The most that can be done is to formulate standards not too hard for pharmacists to maintain and sufficiently satisfying for the majority of medical practitioners.

The bases of the pharmacopœial ointments are somewhat and possibly unnecessarily varied, and their number ought to be capable of reduction. As far as can be judged from medical criticisms, only two principal bases are required—a *protective basis*, of which paraffin ointment may be taken as a type, and an *emollient basis*, such as lard—with explicit directions for modifying the plasticity so as to suit varying conditions of temperature, etc.

Protective Basis.

Some mixtures of hard and soft paraffins possess the great advantages of perfect stability under all conditions of climate and indifference of behaviour towards all drugs, but they unfortunately lack uniformity of consistence. If it were possible to compound a mixture that would remain *entirely plastic* at the requisite temperatures, nothing better could be desired, and at first sight this seems easy of accomplishment; but it has to be borne in mind that, although the hard and soft paraffins belong to the same chemical series, their members do not readily lend themselves to such a combination. It is not difficult to obtain *soft* paraffin melting between 38° and 46° C., while it is well known that *hard* paraffin is obtainable melting between 45° and 58° C.; consequently the two groups may be said to overlap. In spite of this, it appears to have been quite beyond the art of pharmacy to devise a simple paraffin basis permitting of sufficient latitude in the proportion of ingredients to meet ordinary variations of temperature.

Since the last edition of the Pharmacopoeia was published paraffin ointments have been made in enormous quantities, and makers have endeavoured to overcome the want of uniformity of consistence by grinding in mills or by squeezing through minute apertures. It is true that either method precludes the possibility of masses of hard paraffin being present, and the opaque whiteness is certainly pleasing, but here the advantages of milling come to an end. Every manufacturer of ointments on a large scale knows that during milling a large amount of air is incor-

porated with the basis and the bulk most inconveniently increased. This may not appear to be of great significance, but, as a matter of fact, it is productive of endless trouble. So long as a jar of milled ointment is undisturbed the uniform appearance and consistence is maintained, but soon after the jar comes into use the opacity disappears and more or less transparent masses are noticed. These the uninitiated describe as lumps of hard paraffin, and suggest faulty admixture; really they are portions of ointment from which the air has escaped. Milling is still further disadvantageous in that it renders ointments too soft, to combat which it is customary to increase the proportion of hard paraffin; again, so long as the ointment is dispensed exactly as sent out this addition may be of no moment, but if the ointment has to be re-melted for the incorporation of further ingredients it becomes a great deal too hard when cold.

If it be admitted that paraffin ointment cannot be prepared satisfactorily by simple admixture of its two members, it becomes necessary to inquire whether the addition of a fat or wax effects any improvement. It is found that several waxes are of considerable service, and as it is desirable to utilise one already described in the Pharmacopoeia, it is thought that beeswax may serve the purpose. Beeswax has been used in ointments and cerates from time immemorial, and it combines perfectly with both hard and soft paraffin; further, it is known that the addition of beeswax facilitates the incorporation of aqueous and spirituous liquids.

The suggestion to employ beeswax as a homogenising agent for the paraffins not being novel, it is hoped that those who have had practical experience of its behaviour may be induced to publish the result of their observations. To be of real service, however, it is necessary that experiments with similar materials should be carried out by pharmacists in different localities, so as to arrive at the exact proportions suitable for variations of temperature. It is true that it would be quite easy by means of ordinary laboratory experiments to devise a series of formulæ apparently satisfactory at all temperatures from 5° to 35° C., but it is equally certain that without the experience of those habitually dispensing in mean temperatures varying within this range the formulæ would most likely be imperfect. Thus, pharmacists in Cornwall, presumably, require a basis containing a higher percentage of hard paraffin than is needed in the North of Scotland.

The formula for a standard temperature of 15° C., now suggested for Unguentum Paraffini, is as follows:

Hard paraffin (m.p. 54°-57° C.)	27
Soft paraffin (m.p. 44°-46° C.)	70
Beeswax	3

If the ingredients after melting and straining are allowed to cool without stirring, a somewhat translucent plastic basis results, which may be fairly easily rubbed down in a mortar or on a slab. If the mixture is gently stirred a whiter and more opaque basis is formed.

It will be noticed that comparatively high melting-points are suggested for both paraffins, as experience seems to indicate that better and more plastic ointments are produced with materials of high melting-point.

Should the standard proportions suggested above not prove suitable for any locality, it is essential that experiments be made with harder or softer bases to meet prevailing conditions, *care being taken to reduce or increase the proportion of soft paraffin only*. If this procedure is adhered to, and enough workers in these islands and the British Possessions generally publish the result of their observations or communicate direct with the writer, there ought to be no difficulty in placing reliable data before the Pharmacopœia Committee. As matters stand at present, a pharmacist in London dispensing an ointment with a paraffin basis to be sent to localities as wide apart as Aberdeen, Nice, or Central Africa must often be in a quandary, for he may have no guide beyond conjecture as to the consistence appropriate to the climate.

The subject presents considerable difficulties even in this country, as an ointment that is perfect during an ordinary winter is much too soft for a summer such as the last. The logical deduction, therefore, is that in the next edition of the Pharmacopœia proportions ought to be given for modifying the standard paraffin ointment to meet the following variations of temperature:

10°, 20°, 25°, 30°, and 35° C.

It is believed that house-temperature in the coldest and the warmest British Possessions is covered by this range, but it is of course open to amendment. At any rate, if pharmacists can supply formulæ for paraffin ointments consistently plastic at these temperatures great progress will have been made.*

Emollient Basis.

In spite of much that has been written to the contrary, it is very doubtful if any more generally satisfactory basis can be found than pure lard. Provided a reasonable price is paid there is no difficulty in obtaining lard practically neutral and free from adulteration with foreign oils or fats, and, further, such lard if properly benzoated keeps almost indefinitely. Many of the compounded substitutes for lard that have been suggested from time to time—e.g., ung. cetacei—are not only more acid, but oxidise and become rancid more rapidly. Here attention might be drawn to the difference between rancidity and acidity. It is true that an acid oil or fat may also be rancid, but it does not necessarily follow. It has been shown that rancid lard or olive oil may have quite low acid-figures and be uneatable; on the other hand, a fat may possess a comparatively high acid-figure and be quite palatable. Provided an oil or fat is not rancid, it may contain a large proportion of free oleic or stearic acid and be perfectly emollient; in fact, it is not uncommon to find stearic acid prescribed in ointments. It seems probable that if the last traces of albuminoid matter could be removed many oils and fats would keep for long periods without any material increase in acidity. Thus, castor oil expressed in the cold, after heating to coagulate albumen and expel moisture, with subsequent filtration, was found to be practically neutral, and moreover remained neutral even when kept in partially filled bottles for several years.

The method employed for benzoating lard is possibly open to argument, and objection may be taken to every method. If the benzoin is added in the form of a concentrated alcoholic, ethereal, or chloroformic solution, there seems little doubt that a sweeter odour is conferred; on the other hand, benzoated lard prepared by gently warming, with occasional stirring for a moderate period, while perhaps somewhat less aromatic, loses most of the suspended moisture and keeps rather better. The Committee of Reference in Pharmacy has already pronounced for the retention of the latter method, and although it has been described as archaic it remains for the opponents of the process to show good cause why it should be superseded. It must not be forgotten that it is equally necessary to heat the lard whichever method is adopted, and if the heating and subsequent straining are carefully managed moisture and coagulated albuminoids are both eliminated.

It is not likely that lard will require to be softened even in cold latitudes, but it may frequently be wanted much harder. Beeswax is perhaps the most suitable stiffening agent which can be suggested, but it is important to know the exact proportions necessary to confer sufficient stability for use at temperatures identical with those specified under Unguentum Paraffini.

As has been pointed out, dermatologists and practitioners generally use other ointment-bases than those officially described, and while it may not be desirable to increase largely the number of formulæ, the inclusion of at least one other absorbable fatty basis would fill a long-felt want. This basis must be as bland and neutral as possible, and it should not require the addition of any preservative.

* Matters will be facilitated if pharmacists in widely separated localities who are willing to carry out experiments on the lines indicated will communicate with the Committee of Reference in Pharmacy, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., the Secretary having kindly arranged to distribute samples of the two paraffins having correct melting-points.

Here, again, it is only possible to suggest a formula suitable for a standard temperature of 15° C., and whatever admixture is finally adopted, means must be provided, by increasing or decreasing the proportion of one ingredient only, for softening or stiffening the basis to suit changes of temperature.

A mixture of lard and wool-fat is bland and not unpleasant to use, and if combined with a small proportion of paraffin ointment keeps well, the consistence being readily adjusted by varying the proportion of the last-mentioned ingredient. The following, for which the name *Unguentum Emolliens* is proposed, is an illustration of the type required, but it is probable that those who have experimented in this direction can suggest a more elegant formula:

Lard	...	...	...	...	40
Wool-fat	...	...	...	...	40
Paraffin ointment	...	...	...	...	20

The Official Monographs.

In the following monographs an attempt has been made to incorporate the most useful suggestions that have been offered during the last ten years; while many of the ointments prepared in accordance with the appended formulæ are satisfactory, others admittedly leave much to be desired. If, therefore, pharmacists can improve them, it is hoped they will take the earliest opportunity of recording their observations, as the time left at disposal is growing short.

UNGUENTUM ACIDI BORICI.—No change. The demand for this ointment is enormous, and, with the exception of want of uniformity of the basis, it appears to meet with entire approval.

UNGUENTUM ACIDI CARBOLICI.—It is proposed to reduce the phenol to 3 per cent. This strength is apparently acceptable to medical men, and is well within the range of solubility. Glycerin as a solvent for the phenol is not satisfactory when mixed with paraffin.

UNGUENTUM ACIDI SALICYLICI.—No change.

UNGUENTUM ACONITINÆ.—No change. This ointment is very rarely used.

UNGUENTUM AQUE ROSÆ.—The present formula is not satisfactory; the percentage of water is too high; moreover, spermaceti appears to fulfil no useful purpose, and is better omitted. The following yields a permanent cream capable of taking up most medicaments. Exception may be taken to the introduction of borax on the ground of incompatibility with mercurial salts, etc., but as a cold-cream basis is only likely to be prescribed as an emollient no great weight need be attached to the contention. If, however, borax is really objectionable it is necessary to introduce wool-fat. To this proposal there is the drawback that as water is lost by evaporation the ointment becomes brown on the surface. Suggested formula:

White beeswax	...	...	...	18
Almond oil	...	...	...	61
Borax	...	...	...	1
Rose-water	...	...	...	20
Oil of rose	...	...	...	0.1

Melt the wax with the almond oil, strain, and add gradually, with constant stirring, the rose-water in which the borax has been previously dissolved. When cool add the oil of rose.

UNGUENTUM ATROPINÆ.—No change.

UNGUENTUM BELLADONNÆ.—

Liquid extract of belladonna	...	...	...	80
Benzoated lard	...	...	...	60
Wool-fat	...	...	...	20

Melt the wax with the lard, strain, and allow to cool. Reduce the liquid extract to 20 by evaporation at a temperature below 95° C., and incorporate with the mixed fats.

This contains 0.6 per cent. of alkaloid as at present, but is lighter in colour and generally more satisfactory.

UNGUENTUM CANTHARIDIS.—The official monograph yields an ointment of uncertain strength, and Greenish's modification has been adopted in its place:

Unguentum Cantharidini.

Cantharidin	...	...	...	0.20
Yellow beeswax,	...	...	...
Wool-fat, in equal proportions to	...	...	...
produce	...	...	...	100
Chloroform	...	...	...	a sufficiency

Dissolve the cantharidin in sufficient chloroform by the aid of heat, and add to the other ingredients previously melted together; stir until cold.

UNGUENTUM CAPSICI.—Capsicum-fruits yield a variable amount of oleo-resin, and many workers have advised a change—thus:

Capsicum oleo-resin	...	...	10
Lard	...	...	10
Hard paraffin	...	...	10
Soft paraffin	...	...	70

UNGUENTUM CETACEI.—The name is evidently a favourite, but the formula is not good. If the present ingredients are retained no better can be suggested, but it ought not to be impossible to devise another basis with better keeping qualities. Spermaceti ointment will not keep without a preservative, while if benzoated it is unfit for eye-ointments, etc., on account of the intolerable smarting it produces. (See Unguentum Emolliens.)

UNGUENTUM CHRYSAROBINI.—No change, but directions should be given for removing the insoluble matter by decanting or straining.

UNGUENTUM COCAINÆ.—No change.

UNGUENTUM CONII.—This ointment has been recommended for deletion, although it is still prescribed in relatively large quantities. Should it be retained, the following is an excellent formula:

Conium-juice	...	...	200
Boric acid	...	...	2
Wool-fat	...	...	50
Soft paraffin	...	...	5

Add the boric acid to the conium-juice and evaporate at a temperature below 60° C., until reduced to 43; gradually incorporate with the other ingredients.

No loss of alkaloid takes place in concentrating conium-juice at this temperature.

UNGUENTUM CREOSOTI.—No change suggested. An ointment very rarely used.

UNGUENTUM EUCALYPTI.—No change. Very rarely used.

UNGUENTUM GALLÆ.—No change. Rarely used.

UNGUENTUM GALLÆ CUM OPIO.—This, again, is rarely prescribed, although a popular household remedy. No matter the care bestowed on its manufacture, the ointment is unavoidably gritty, and must be unpleasant to use. If it is possible to make a change, the author proposes a radical one:

Tannic acid	...	...	5
90-per-cent. alcohol	...	...	3
Morphine	...	...	0.75
Oleic acid	...	...	2.25
Wool-fat	...	...	40
Soft paraffin	...	...	49

Dissolve the morphine in the oleic acid by means of heat, and add to the mixed basis; afterwards incorporate the tannic acid dissolved in the alcohol.

A further improvement would be to introduce cocaine or atropine into the formula, as morphine has little action in obtunding local pain. Surprise may be expressed at the inclusion of alcohol in an ointment of this nature, but considerable experience has shown it to be grateful to the patient.

UNGUENTUM GLYCERINI PLUMBI SUBACETATIS.—This ointment has been universally condemned, and there is no doubt that in many cases the glycerin is distinctly irritating. Guyer and Ewing's suggestion is excellent:

Ung. Plumbi Subacetatis.

Strong lead-subacetate solution	12.5
Wool-fat	25.0
Hard paraffin	12.5
Soft paraffin	50.0

The proportions are slightly altered from the original in order to maintain the same strength of lead subacetate. If the proposed formula is adopted it is possible that lead-acetate and lead-carbonate ointments may be deleted.

UNGUENTUM HAMAMELIDIS.—

Liquid extract of hamamelis	...	10
Wool-fat	...	60
Soft paraffin	...	30

This formula is a great improvement over that now official.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI.—No change is suggested in the formula, but it is hoped the name may be altered to *Unguentum Hydrargyri Fortis*, and *Unguentum Hydrargyri Dilutum* be made official.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI AMMONIATI.—According to Wild, this is not as useful in impetigo as when it was prepared with lard. Wild also suggests a reduction in strength to 5 per cent. It must not be forgotten that in poor neighbourhoods this ointment is largely used for destroying

pediculi, and for this purpose an easily removable basis is an advantage. The proposal is:

Ammoniated mercury	...	...	5
Benzoated lard	...	...	95

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI COMPOSITUM.—No change.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI IODIDI RUBRI.—No change.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI NITRATIS.—The formula appears to give satisfaction when the pharmacopœial quantities are adhered to, but it has been pointed out that the temperatures may be reduced slightly with advantage. Thus, for 143.3° C., read 140° C., and for 93.3° C., read 90° C. With pure lard and olive oil a golden-yellow ointment is produced which keeps well.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI NITRATIS DILUTUM.—No change.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI OLEATIS.—If the mercury oleate is prepared with care and dried at a comparatively low temperature, the formula is excellent, and no change is proposed.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI OXIDI FLAVI.—No change.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI OXIDI RUBRI.—It has been proposed to revert to lard as a basis, but although it may be more desirable from a medical aspect, it necessitates the ointment being freshly prepared, as it does not keep. A paraffin basis alone is, to say the least, inconvenient, as paraffin is so difficult to remove from the scalp, and experiment might be made with a mixture of equal parts wool-fat and soft paraffin.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI SUBCHLORIDI.—Wild states that 10 per cent. calomel is too weak, and suggests 20 per cent. with benzoated lard. The ointment is rarely prescribed.

UNGUENTUM IODI.—No change.

UNGUENTUM IODOFORMI.—Rarely used. Wild suggests 10 per cent. in lard.

UNGUENTUM PARAFFINI is dealt with elsewhere.

UNGUENTUM PICIS LIQUIDUM.—This is reported as too thick and sticky. The following modification has been approved:

Tar	...	...	70
Lard	...	...	5
Beeswax	...	...	25

UNGUENTUM PLUMBI ACETATIS.—If the new formula for lead-subacetate ointment is accepted this may not be required. If it is retained a better formula would be—

Lead acetate	...	...	4
Water	...	...	9
Paraffin ointment	...	...	87

Dissolve the lead acetate in the water and add to the paraffin ointment.

UNGUENTUM PLUMBI CARBONATIS.—No change. It appears to be quite neglected.

UNGUENTUM POTASSII IODIDI.—No change.

UNGUENTUM RESINÆ.—No change. Resin ointment is rarely prescribed, but it is a popular household remedy.

UNGUENTUM STAPHISAGRIÆ.—It has been proposed to make this ointment from the oil, but it is by no means certain that the oil contains the whole of the alkaloid. Until this point is settled, therefore, it appears better to keep to the official formula.

UNGUENTUM SULPHURIS.—No change.

UNGUENTUM SULPHURIS IODIDI.—No change. Rarely prescribed.

UNGUENTUM VERATRINI.—No change.

UNGUENTUM ZINCI.—Wild points out that this is used exclusively as a soothing and protective application, and suggests a paraffin basis. On the other hand, it must not be forgotten that zinc ointment is an exceedingly popular domestic remedy, and if a change is made the public will probably continue to ask for it made with benzoated lard.

UNGUENTUM ZINCI OLEATIS.—The formula appears to be a good one, and the ointment is in considerable demand. Merson pointed out that the mixed solutions should be brought to the boil before attempting to collect the separated oleate. After washing, the mass should be squeezed to get rid of as much water as possible, and then broken up into small pieces before drying. The temperature should not exceed 50° C.

H.M. EMBASSY at Berlin reports the publication of regulations, made under the German Weights and Measures Law of May 30, 1908, authorising the use in Germany until further notice of the English system of weights and measures in connection with the exportation of pharmaceutical goods.

COLOMBIAN DRUG AND MEDICINE IMPORTS showed a substantial increase last year, the values being 42,602L., against 26,950L. in 1909 and 16,543L. in 1908. The United States shipped 22,430L. worth, Germany 8,322L., France 6,849L., the United Kingdom 4,483L., Belgium 211L., and other countries 307L. worth.

WINTER SESSION.

Association Presidents.

THE Middlesbrough Chemists' Association has recently elected as its President Mr. Charles Sampson Ellington,



MR. C. S. ELLINGTON.

Ph.C., of Messrs. Middleton & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough and Saltburn-by-the-Sea. Mr. Ellington is a native of Rochester, Kent, and served his apprenticeship with Mr. J. S. Hewitt, 175 Eastgate, Rochester. So efficient was Mr. Hewitt's tuition that Mr. Ellington passed the Minor examination in July 1894 without further aid than Mr. Hewitt had given him. He then became an assistant in Messrs. John Bell & Co.'s pharmacy, Oxford Street, and having studied for the Major examination with Mr. Henry Wootton, B.Sc., passed it in October 1895. Thereafter he extended his experience in various situations and went to Middlesbrough as partner with Mr. Hylton Middleton-Taylor in the business, established in 1859, and carried on at Cleveland Terrace, Linthorpe Road, with a branch at 201 Linthorpe Road. Soon after the business was converted into a limited company, with Mr. Middleton-Taylor and Mr. Ellington as managing directors, Mr. Ellington also being secretary of the company. A branch was opened at 2 Station Street, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, soon after the formation of the company. Mr. Ellington is a devoted and earnest Mason, and makes an excellent President.

Brief Records.

Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society.—At the meeting on February 14, Mr. H. B. Hammond read a paper in which he gave extracts from Pomet's "Complete History of Druggs," contrasting pharmacy and medical treatment of 1712 with the present-day methods.

National Federation of Ophthalmic Opticians.—At a meeting of this body in the Albion Hotel, Manchester, on February 14, Mr. J. C. Kidd (the President) in the chair, it was suggested that an examining body might be established which would grant diplomas after examination. The subject is to be discussed by Mr. R. E. Heppell at the next meeting of the Council.

Ipswich Chemists' Association.—At the meeting held at the Great White Horse Hotel, Ipswich, on February 8, the Vice-President (Mr. J. C. Wiggins) occupied the chair. Others present were Messrs. E. Matcham, J. T. Jackson, E. Miller, A. Matcham, H. Chard, and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. W. H. Stones). It was decided to hold the third annual dinner on April 24.

Manchester Optical Society.—Mr. J. C. Kidd (the President) occupied the chair at the last meeting, held at the Albion Hotel, when Mr. T. S. Baird delivered an address dealing chiefly with *Difficult Cases Opticians have to Treat*. These he summarised under the following heads: Cases of low defects, cases of high defects, cases of anisometropia, strabismus, and diplopia, and diseases of the fundus. The lecture was illustrated by lantern-slides.

Huddersfield Chemists' Association.—A meeting was held at the Queen Hotel on February 13, the President (Mr. J. B. Wood) in the chair. The local organisation scheme of the Pharmaceutical Society was adopted, and a local committee formed for the purpose of the Insurance Act. Mr. Walshaw, who represents the Association on the Huddersfield Chamber of Trade, reported that that body is of opinion that Wednesday should be made the closing day under the Shops Act.

Chesterfield Pharmacists' Association.—A meeting was held on February 13 at the Hotel Portland, Mr. A. W. Greaves in the chair. There were also present Messrs. Wright, Denwood, Houston, Dent, E. Furness, Twelves Sales, and S. C. Greaves. The *Shops Act* was discussed, and Mr. Furness gave notice that at the next meeting he should propose a resolution that shops close at 1 o'clock on Wednesday for the rest of the day. Mr. Denwood also gave notice that he should propose that shops close on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings at 7 o'clock, Fridays at 8 o'clock, and Saturdays at 10 o'clock. Mr. Furness

gave notice of an amendment to Mr. Denwood's resolution that 7.30 be substituted for 7 o'clock.

Association of Women Pharmacists.—A meeting was held at Dr. Williams' Library, Gordon Square, London, W.C., on February 6. Among those present were Miss Wardle, Miss Bedell, Miss Andrews, Miss Gilliatt, Miss Braithwaite, Miss Cole, Miss Hughes, Miss Howell, Miss Bolton, and Miss Heywood. Miss Wardle took the chair, and Mrs. Freke gave a lecture on *Esperanto and its Relations to Pharmacists*. Mrs. Freke sketched the origin and principles of the auxiliary language and gave a practical demonstration of the ease with which the rules of Esperanto can be learnt and applied. The members present showed great appreciation of the lecture, and an animated discussion followed. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Freke finished the proceedings.

Cambridge Junior Pharmaceutical Association.—At the meeting held at Croydon Chambers, Regent Street, on February 7 there were present Messrs. Course, Laxton, Tuck, Titterton, Hill, Hammond, Tyler, Pedley, Atkins, Knowles, Speakman, jun., Dodgson, Parker, George, and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Williams). A vote of sympathy was passed with Mr. E. H. Church in his recent bereavement. Mr. R. Spencer Turner, of Willingham, then gave an interesting and lucid lecture on the *Botany of the Minor Syllabus*. The lecture was illustrated with some ninety lantern-slides of microscopic sections of the plant tissues, etc., including those of many of the official species. A vote of thanks to the lecturer was heartily endorsed by the audience. The thanks of the meeting were also tendered to Mr. Beall for the use of the lantern.

Blackpool and Fylde Pharmacists' Association.—The annual meeting was held in the Palatine Hotel, Blackpool, on February 9. There were present Messrs. Bailey, Blackhurst, Boothroyd, Greenwood, Huddart, Laurie, Parker, Sankey, Speight, Sykes (Cleveleys), Turver, and Watson. Mr. Boothroyd occupied the chair. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. D. J. Bailey) reported that quiet but satisfactory progress had been made during the last season, and that the membership is forty. The report was adopted. The election of officers resulted as follows: *President*, Mr. D. J. Bailey; *Vice-Presidents*, Messrs. Laurie and Johnson; *Committee*, Messrs. Boothroyd, Greenwood, Sankey, Turver, and Watson. *Treasurer*, Mr. H. P. Withers; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. J. W. Huddart; *Hon. Auditors*, Messrs. Blackhurst and Speight.

National Union of Assistant Pharmacists.—A meeting of the London branch was held on February 11 at the London College of Pharmacy, 361 Clapham Road, S.W. Mr. F. E. Bullen read a paper on "How we Won our Half-day," in which he claimed that the National Union of Assistant Pharmacists is the only body which had represented the assistants' claims during the discussion of the Shops Act, and that, although the statutory sixty-hours' week had been postponed, the Union by its firm attitude had ensured for every pharmaceutical employé, whether assistant or manager, a weekly half-holiday from 1.30 p.m. A discussion followed, in which Messrs. Shirley, Bottomley, Colston, Martin, Snow, and J. H. France took part, and a resolution was passed thanking the Government for securing the half-holiday.

York Chemists' Association.—A meeting was held in the Old George Hotel on February 13, when Mr. Pilkington Sargeant, Leeds, read a paper on the *National Insurance Act*. Among those present were Messrs. F. C. Hey (President), J. R. Parker, W. P. Saville, A. Humphreys, S. Scruton, J.P., — Hey, E. J. Wood, — Leake (Harrogate), W. Dewhurst, C. Midgley, — Parker (Acomb), W. Sowray, F. E. Newey, J. A. Lupton, G. E. Walker, R. Grantham, M. F. Burgin, J. H. Lupton, A. Lupton, and T. C. Atkinson (Hon. Secretary). Mr. Pilkington Sargeant, in the course of his review of the National Insurance Act, expressed the opinion that there is little doubt that the general business of the pharmacist will be adversely affected by the Act. The discussion which ensued was taken part in by Messrs. Saville, J. R. Parker, Dewhurst, Hey, and Scruton.

Hull Pharmacists' Association.—A meeting was held at the Grosvenor Hotel on February 13, with Mr. T. Smith in the chair, supported by Messrs. Robinson (Treasurer), W. Staning, Snowden, Wharton, Richardson, Sawyer, Hoyle, jun., Chapman, J. F. Robson, Tiffany, and Newton. Mr. G. Oliver and Mr. C. Foster were elected members. The following were appointed as an Organisation Committee: Messrs. Stoakes, Hoyle, sen., A. Richardson, C. Morrow, Spilman, T. Smith, and J. F. Robson, the executive officers of the Association to be *ex officio* members. The next question was whether all qualified men in Hull and district should be eligible for membership. After a long discussion, it was decided, on the motion of Mr. Snowden, seconded by Mr. Staning, supported by Mr. Wharton and Mr. Sawyer, to admit all qualified men who apply for membership.

Grimsby Pharmacists' Association.—A meeting was held on February 5, when there were present Messrs. Cor. Willson (President), in the chair, H. W. Coley, T. D. Sneath, W. G. Robinson, E. Sigley, F. N. Fletcher, C. Dewing, H. Schofield, and C. H. Ashton (Hon. Secretary). The *sale of spirituous preparations* by unqualified traders was again before the meeting, and Mr. Coley suggested that a protest should be sent to the Board of Customs and Excise asking the Board to take action in the matter. *Early-closing* was also considered, and a reply was read from the Town Clerk, stating that chemists and druggists are exempted under certain sections in the Act. The special committee appointed to deal with the National Insurance Act reported on the selection of representatives on the General Provisional Insurance Committee. It was considered that local Associations should have had the opportunity of directly electing their representatives.

Chemists' Assistants' Association.—At the meeting held at 75 Newman Street, London, W., on February 6, with Mr. F. Naylor (President) in the chair, Mr. A. R. Smith, M.Sc., F.I.C., lectured on *Enzymes*. The rendering of carbohydrates soluble in plants ready for transmission to various parts was the first example of the utility of enzymes. Similar changes can be brought about in the laboratory by means of chemical reagents, but the plant produces ferments for its own purposes. Many enzymes have not been isolated, being distinguished by their properties in solution, and it is not known whether they are actual chemical substances or not. Enzyme reactions are usually of the nature of simple hydrolysis, resulting in the breaking-down of complex molecules into simpler products. Other types are the clotting enzymes (in rennet, etc.) and the oxidases which bring about oxidation. Experiments were shown with urease, emulsin, and oxidases. The catalytic nature of enzymes was also described. In the discussion which followed, Messrs. White, Tocher, Thompson, Faraday, Naylor, and Brittain took part.

Birkenhead and Wirral Association of Pharmacists.—A meeting was held on February 8, when a discussion was opened by Mr. J. W. Kendall on *The Federation Scheme and our Immediate Attitude to the Insurance Act*. There were present Messrs. Stelfox, Wynne, Stephen Jones, Cooling, White, Stones, Snow, Woodfield Cooke, Fawcett, Schuhmacher, Sturt, Govier, Mellor, Pott, Caine, Stockdale, Kendall, Somerville, Lee, Fore, and Hays. Mr. Kendall said the Insurance Act is looked upon by some as a bogey, and the more formidable because up to the present chemists have not succeeded in getting hold of any of the wires that control it. With regard to the medical opposition, he thought the Government would "side-step" the doctors, and quoted some of the sub-sections of the Act to show what methods would probably be adopted. It would probably end in a compromise. He suggested the formation of a special Insurance Committee to deal with matters and bring the members in close touch with each other. Mr. Kendall proceeded to discuss the Federation scheme as enunciated at Liverpool by Mr. Woolcock, and the meeting passed a resolution of approval. It was also decided to establish the special Insurance Committee outlined by Mr. Kendall, whose first duty would be to organise the outlying districts and bring all pharmacists into line.

Llandudno and Colwyn Bay Pharmacists' Association.—A meeting was held at the North Western Hotel, Llandudno, on February 7. There were present Miss Hornblow and Messrs. Adamson, Cocker, W. Hughes (Conway), D. Llewelyn Jones, H. Rogers Jones, J. Lloyd-Jones, Lewis, Lloyd, McIntosh, W. A. Roberts, and Smith. A Local Organisation Committee composed of the following was formed: The President (Mr. W. A. Roberts, Llandudno), Vice-President (Mr. W. Hughes, Conway), Mr. Adamson (Colwyn Bay), Mr. Owen (Bangor), Mr. Prichard (Llangefni), and the Divisional Secretaries of the district. The members of the Organisation Committee are to form a nucleus, with power to add to their number, of the local Pharmaceutical Insurance Committees in the area covered by the Association. Final arrangements for the annual dinner in April were left with a sub-committee of Llandudno pharmacists. The following were elected members of the Association: Messrs. Boardman (Abergele), J. Bowen, H. R. Jones, W. J. Jones, J. C. Owen, and W. H. Parry (Bangor), Hughes (Bethesda), T. J. Hughes (Penmaenmawr), J. Ellis Jones (Pen-y-groes), G. R. Jones (Llanrwst), J. Lloyd Jones (Blaenau Ffestiniog), R. R. Jones (Amlwch), Lewis and T. J. Prichard (Llangefni), and R. H. Williams (Holyhead).

Bath Pharmaceutical Association.—A meeting was held at the Literary Institute on February 8. Mr. Luther Wilson presiding. Messrs. Snow, Jenkin, Evans, Gedge, A. H. Cooper, J. W. Cooper, Norris, Dickinson, Hallett, D. J. Williams, and John Hawes (Hon. Secretary) were also present. The first item on the agenda was a paper by Mr. H. W. T. Gedge entitled "*Continental Impressions.*"

The author has had several engagements in Italy, and in his paper dealt with the pharmaceutical and social conditions with which a pharmacist meets in pursuing his calling under the blue skies of the Riviera and elsewhere. He described the pharmacy laws of the different Italian States, contrasting the status of the pharmacist there with that of his English confrère, and comparing dispensing charges and the different methods of prescribing. A vote of thanks to Mr. Gedge was accorded on the motion of Mr. D. Evans. The meeting then proceeded to discuss a circular received from the London Wholesale Patent-medicine Houses, and general resentment was felt at their action in the matter of *Booking-fees*, the Secretary being instructed to notify them of the strong objection felt in Bath. It was also decided to call a special meeting to consider the question of *Co-operative Buying*. The subject of an *Early-closing Day* was introduced by Mr. Evans, and it is understood that this will come up again.

Bradford Chemists' Association.—A meeting was held on February 13 at the Royal Hotel, Mr. M. Frith (President) in the chair. A deputation from the Bradford Chamber of Trade attended and explained the reorganisation scheme of the Chamber, whereby, instead of the Association being affiliated as at present, it would be formed into a section of the Chamber, but would still have its own officers and control its own private affairs. The deputation urged that by the new scheme and the union of all trades in one large body much more effective action could be taken on matters affecting tradesmen as a whole than at the present time. A long discussion took place upon the matter, and it was ultimately resolved that the committee should consider the matter and report to the next meeting. Mr. T. Hirst (Messrs. Rimmington & Son, Ltd.) was elected a member, and Mr. H. D. Day (Laisterdyke) was nominated for election. Considerable discussion took place as to what day would be most suitable for chemists of the city to close upon under the new *Shops Act*. The Bradford Chamber of Trade have suggested Wednesday, but it was pointed out that chemists are exempted for the sale of medicines and medical and surgical appliances, and could therefore keep their shops open on the closing day for the sale of these articles. It was decided to recommend chemists to close on Wednesdays at 1 P.M., commencing March 13.

Leeds Chemists' Association.—A meeting was held on February 14 at the Grand Restaurant, the President (Mr. J. H. Beacock) in the chair. Mr. W. D. Pollitt read a paper on the *Proprietary Articles Trade Association*, in the course of which he sketched the progress of that organisation during the sixteen years of its existence. He considered that the P.A.T.A. has done great good to the chemist, and particularly to the smaller retailer. He urged that the ideal of sales at face-values should still be kept in view. The question of *Early Closing* was then discussed, and a resolution was passed that an application be made for a closing-order for one o'clock on Wednesdays. The President said that this Act would have the effect of preventing the sale of medicines in ease of illness. In some districts, no doubt, men could easily close and go away, but in other cases the chemist would have to arrange to have somebody in attendance to supply medicines in case of illness. Mr. Brownhill said Mr. Huntrods, the President of the Drug-stores Association, had asked for information as to what the Association recommended, and said that a meeting of that Association would be held in the following week. A representative of Boots, Ltd., stated that they proposed to close one branch on Saturday and another on Wednesday. Mr. Rothstein said there is a risk of the closing becoming a farce by reason of the necessities of the doctors and considerable annoyance being caused by the trade being done at the back door instead of in the shop. Perhaps the opening for a short time in the evening would serve the needs. Mr. Haves pointed out that if the assistants were allowed to go on the Wednesday they could not be called back, and it meant that the chemist would either have to be in attendance himself for that hour or so in the evening or employ a *locum*. A question was raised of the probability of there being an extra demand on the chemist by reason of the increase of prescriptions by effect of the *National Insurance Act*, but Mr. Pilkington Sargeant said he thought that there is no reason to anticipate any pressing increase of prescriptions by reason of the Act. Mr. Shaw said he differed entirely in opinion from Mr. Sargeant.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.—A meeting was held at 36 York Place on February 7, Mr. E. J. Brown, Ph.C. (President), in the chair. Mr. B. M. Brander, Ph.C., read a paper on the *manufacture and properties of gelatin*. The author first defined gelatin from its property of forming a solution which, on cooling, solidifies to a jelly, pointing out that there is no absolute distinction between glue and gelatin.

Neither is there any chemical or physical distinction between gelatin and isinglass or fish-glue. He then sketched the process of the manufacture of glue from animal refuse. The glue solution is in the final stage run into wooden troughs to solidify. When set a little water is run over the surface, the mass detached and cut into slices about 1 in. thick, these being placed on nets to dry. The drying operation lasts from twelve to eighteen days, the marks of the net on the surface of the glue being familiar to all chemists. In making gelatin the materials are selected with great attention to purity, and the operations are carried out with scrupulous care and cleanliness. The author outlined Cox's process as given in the patent specification of 1844. Nelson's process was also given, sulphurous acid being employed for bleaching purposes. In Henze's process dark gelatinous material is cleared by means of wood and animal charcoal. The preparation of isinglass from the swimming bladder of fish was next dealt with, and it was pointed out that it is the fibrous structure of isinglass which renders it of such value as a clarifying or filtering medium. Dealing next with the chemical properties of gelatin, the reaction with tannic acid is the one upon which the value of gelatin in pharmacy depends. Wines are freed from tannin by macerating with 0.15 per cent. of gelatin for twenty-four hours at a temperature not exceeding 15.5° C. (to avoid dissolving the gelatin) and then decanting the clear liquid. Oxalic acid possesses the property of preventing to a very great extent the tendency of gelatin to putrefy. Gelatin is treated with hot solutions of oxalic acid and freed from acid by means of chalk, to form what is called meta-gelatin. The property of preventing solidification possessed by concentrated acetic acid was referred to, and the use of gelatin as a food-preservative. Dealing with the various qualities of gelatin, it was stated that it is possible to get a gelatin yielding less than 1 per cent. of ash, and this should not show more than traces of copper or lead. Iron should not be present in greater proportion than 10 in 100,000, and sulphurous acid, which is usually present, should not exceed 5 parts per 100,000. This was followed by a paper by Mr. W. B. Cowie, Ph.C., on the *manufacture and composition of whisky*, after which both papers were discussed, and the authors were accorded votes of thanks.

Festivities.

Sangers' Soiree.—The Soirée held by the staff of Messrs. Sangers at St. Andrew's Hall, London, N.W., was largely attended by the lady members. There was an excellent programme of dances, and a capital concert was also provided during the dance intervals. A pleasant evening was brought to a close by musical honours to the Stewards for the admirable arrangements they had carried out.

The Harrogate Pharmaceutical Association held a whist-drive at the Imperial Café on February 9. The company, numbering forty, were received by Mr. and Mrs. Pattison and during the interval supper was served. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Pattison as follows: *Ladies*—(1) Miss C. Dix, (2) Miss Southwell, (consolation) Mrs. Eynon, (special prize) Mrs. Weston. *Gentlemen*—(1) Mr. Wake, (2) Mr. McMillan, (consolation) Mr. Eynon, (special prize) Mr. W. Simpson. At the conclusion a vote of thanks was passed to the President.

The Nottingham Pharmaceutical Association held a whist-drive at the Victoria Station Hotel on February 8. The players numbered over 100, among them being Mr. F. Ross Sergeant (Vice-President), Mr. and Mrs. A. Middleton, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Dickenson, Mr. and Mrs. Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. H. Turton, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Parkes, Messrs. Carr, Prince, and H. Middleton. The office of M.C. was filled by Mr. G. J. R. Parkes, and Messrs. C. F. Carr and H. Middleton acted as stewards. After supper the Vice-President welcomed the visitors, and moved a vote of thanks to the sub-committee (Messrs. Parkes, Carr, H. Middleton, and C. S. Reynolds) for the manner in which they had carried out their duties. The following prizes were awarded to members of the craft: *Ladies*—(1) Mrs. Parkes. *Lady playing as gentleman*—Miss E. Adamson. *Gentlemen*—(2) Mr. Norman Moulds. *Scaled number*—Mr. J. Smith.

Dewsbury Pharmacists' Association.—The annual dinner was held on February 8 at the Railway Hotel, Dewsbury, with Councillor A. B. Barker (Heckmondwike), the President, in the chair. There were also present Messrs. G. N. Gutteridge (Dewsbury), S. N. Pickard (Ossett), Vice-Presidents; W. Blakeley (Birstall), Treasurer; R. Gledhill, S. Butterfield, G. F. Parritt, J. Pickersgill, C. E. O. Walker (Dewsbury), Dr. Ogilvy (Birstall), J. Rhodes (Mirfield), F. Pilkington Sergeant (Leeds), J. Briggs (Ilkley), S.

Flower (Ravensthorpe), J. Day (Savile Town), R. Walshaw (Huddersfield), M. Frith (Bradford), R. V. Sutcliffe (Halifax), F. Mallinson (Heckmondwike), S. R. Mundell (Leeds), R. Broadhead, J. L. Heaton (Batley), and R. J. H. Day (Thornhill, Leeds), Secretary. In proposing the toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society," Mr. Broadhead severely criticised the Society and Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones. He would like to know, he said, what is the intention of the Society in regard to the National Insurance Act. It seemed to him that the Society has allowed the matter to become purely a question of miserable commercialism, and the professional side of the business has been overlooked to such an extent that chemists have become nothing better than a lot of shopkeepers who are recognised as something in the nature of registered plumbers. Replying to the toast, Mr. Walshaw said he never knew when to take Mr. Broadhead seriously. He took the opportunity of denying the general accusations regarding the policy of the Society and Mr. Glyn-Jones. He added that the negotiations with the Government regarding the Act had not been easy. Even medical men cannot stop the working of the Act, and chemists could not expect their weaker Society to accomplish what the doctors cannot do. He claimed that the Pharmaceutical Society had risen to the occasion, and further explained that if the doctors refuse to assist in the working of the Act it will be bad for chemists. Other toasts were "Kindred Associations" and "The President."

West Ham Association of Pharmacists.—The annual dinner of this Association took place at the London Tavern, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., on February 8, Mr. A. H. Cleland (President) in the chair. He was supported by Mr. C. B. Allen (President of the Pharmaceutical Society), Alderman J. R. Hurry (Mayor of West Ham), Dr. Lauzun Brown, Mr. Harold Mitchell, Mr. F. W. Truman, Mr. H. C. Wright and Mr. T. R. Williams (Wright, Layman & Umney, Ltd.), Mr. J. H. Matthews, Mr. H. V. Lovejoy (Edw. Cook & Co., Ltd.), Mr. H. H. Jowett (Robert Blackie), Mr. A. H. Darby (Barclay & Sons, Ltd.), Mr. T. Godbold (Prie's, Ltd.), Mr. G. Parnacott (Erasme Co., Ltd.), Mr. F. W. Fraser (Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd.), Mr. D. Willoughby (Johnson & Sons, Ltd.), Mr. A. Shillecock (Meggeson & Co., Ltd.), Mr. W. A. Raley (British Drug Houses, Ltd.), Mr. H. Freese (T. Christy & Co.), Mr. C. W. Martin (Maw, Son & Sons), Mr. A. D. Baker (J. Townsend & Sons), Mr. F. C. Orange (Fassett & Johnson), Mr. P. O. Royle (Ingram & Royle), Mr. F. S. Ashton (Idris & Co., Ltd.), Mr. J. E. Field (Willows, Francis, Butler & Thompson, Ltd.), Mr. G. H. Macdonald (Armour & Co., Ltd.), Mr. Cakebread (Ashton & Parsons, Ltd.), Mr. H. G. Mumford (Newbery & Sons, Ltd.), Mr. C. W. Bromly (Bovril, Ltd.), Mr. Harold Lynn (Allen & Hanburys, Ltd.), Mr. C. S. Presant (Sangers), Mr. Hudson (Wulfin & Co.), and others. The spur tables were headed by Mr. H. Soper, Mr. T. H. Seed, Mr. W. Potter, and Mr. W. T. Johnson. After dinner, Mr. W. Potter proposed the toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society," to which Mr. C. B. Allen replied. He said the Society was never stronger than it is to-day, and although for many years it was obsessed with educational ideals, within the last twenty years the organisation of local Associations had been taken in hand. The Society can now "ring up" almost any M.P., through the local chemists, a power which was tested during the passage of the National Insurance Act through the Houses of Parliament. The Society did its best to guide statesmen in the direction which it was desirable in the interests of pharmacists they should go. The one thing chemists had not been able to obtain was admission to any of the committees, but he had no doubt that fair play will have its weight with the local committees, and that the chemists' views will be listened to. At this stage a collection was made for the Benevolent Fund, which realised 4*l.* 1*s.* Dr. W. Lauzun Brown proposed the toast of "The West Ham Association of Pharmacists" in a humorous speech, and dealt with the National Insurance Act. He said care should be taken to deal with the situation by the use of suave language, and not in a spirit of disruption, but, he added, that it is a disgrace to medical men to offer them 6*s.* per year for each insured person. The Chairman replied, and referred to the fact that Mr. R. R. Clapp, an honorary member of the Association, is leaving this country for America. The Association wished him godspeed and every success in the new life upon which he is entering. Mr. T. H. Seed proposed the toast of "The Visitors," to which Alderman Hurry replied, and in the course of his speech gave it as his experience that when there is a vacancy for a doctor in any friendly society there is a rush of applicants for the position at a rate of remuneration far below that provided for in the National Insurance Act. Mr. J. H. Matthews gave the toast of "Kindred Associations," to which Mr. F. W. Truman, of the London Chemists' Association, replied. A good musical programme occupied the intervals between the speeches.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

EVENING MEETING.

THE third evening meeting of the present session took place on February 13 in the lecture-theatre, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C. The President (Mr. C. B. Allen) occupied the chair, and there was a good average attendance, which included many ladies. Among those present were Mr. R. R. Bennett, Mr. J. O. Braithwaite, Mr. W. Browne, Mr. H. Deane, Mr. H. Finmore, Mr. R. Fouracre, Mr. F. W. Gamble, Mr. W. L. Howie, Mr. J. A. Jennings, Dr. W. H. Martindale, Mr. Osborne (Messrs. Mann & Bishop), Mr. J. C. Umney, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. U. Woolcock, and Mr. J. R. Wretts.

DRUG-POWDERS OF COMMERCE.

The first paper, by Professor H. G. Greenish and Miss Dorothy J. Bartlett (Burroughs Scholar), read by the former, was entitled "The Powdered Gentian, *Nux Vomica*, and *Ipecacuanha* of Commerce." Professor GREENISH said that occasionally powdered drugs are met with either of inferior quality or intentionally adulterated, and it had seemed to the authors that a systematic investigation was desirable of the powdered drugs of commerce.

Powdered Gentian.—The adulteration of this powder with olive-stones has been pointed out, and it was thought desirable to find out whether advantage had been taken of the warnings of the trade journals, and also to see if the powdered gentians sold retail would pass the requirements of the Austrian Pharmacopœia in regard to the yield (33 per cent.) of extract to hot water. Thirty-three samples were obtained from pharmacies and drug-stores throughout Great Britain, and examined for their ash and aqueous extract and also microscopically. Briefly stated, out of the thirty-three samples five were grossly adulterated, and five others were impure from the presence of small quantities of foreign vegetable tissue, not, however, in sufficient amount to establish adulteration. The last-named samples would have been rejected if they were being purchased as pure. The British Pharmacopœia, it should be remembered, includes in gentian-root the bud at the top of the rhizome, and therefore, in addition to the constituents of the root, leaf-scales would be found, but only in very small proportion. The authors found among the foreign tissues fibres from a bark with calcium-oxalate crystals, small portions of coniferous wood—the last-named probably from the sawdust employed in cleaning the mill—and in three powdered almond-shells were present, showing that in some cases pharmacists are still selling powdered gentian which renders them liable to prosecution. The worst sample was a most heterogeneous mixture; it contained a coniferous bark resembling larch, a wood, starch grains, and fruit particles. A sample of this was sent to Professor Müller, of Vienna, who reported that it bore the characters of powdered dried pears, the marc from the preparation of perry which has been offered as an adulterant of powdered drugs. There were then thrown on the screen an interesting series of slides appropriately stained. The first one—a pure powder—consisted practically entirely of parenchymatous tissue (stained carmine), and this was contrasted with a specimen containing the sclerenchymatous cells of almond-shell, which had taken a green colour. Other slides were also shown, the characters being pointed out by Professor Greenish.

The question of aqueous extract was then dealt with, and the interesting fact mentioned that to prepare quickly gentian-root for the market it is submitted to a fermentation process in which the root develops in eight days the colour and odour which are normally only produced in eight months. The fermentation process, however, reduces the yield of extract from 40 to 13 per cent. The significance is, therefore, that a powdered gentian giving a low yield may have been subjected to high fermentation or consist of exhausted root. As mentioned above, the Austrian Pharmacopœia requires a yield of 33 per cent. to hot water, and the samples examined

were found to vary from 10 to 47. The extract yield disqualified thirteen out of the thirty-three samples, but the cause of the low yield was not determined.

Then in regard to the ash of powdered gentian, the Austrian standard is 5 per cent. and that of the Swiss Pharmacopœia 6 per cent. Twenty-seven of the samples yielded less than 5 per cent. of ash, and there was, therefore, no fault to find in this respect. The Committee of Reference in Pharmacy of the British Pharmacopœia propose inserting the Austrian figure (33 per cent.) for aqueous extract, but with the use of cold-water: experiments have shown that cold water takes out only 2 per cent. less extractive than hot water. The proposed test would have disqualified sixteen out of the thirty-three samples examined.

Powdered *Nux Vomica*.—The authors were induced to examine the commercial samples of this drug because of their attention having been called to a deposit in a mixture made from powdered *nux vomica*. The deposit was identified as powdered date-stones. Reports also have been received from France of adulterated *nux vomica*. Eleven samples were taken and examined for total alkaloids and by the microscope. The alkaloids varied from 2.2 to 2.8 per cent., and microscopically no objection could be taken to any of the samples.

Powdered *Ipecacuanha*.—Reports have been received from France that olive-stones are being used as an adulterant of powdered *ipecacuanha*. Professor Greenish examined samples some years ago of both English and French powders, and although some differences were found, none showed evidence of wilful adulteration. Eleven samples were examined for total alkaloids, ash and microscopically. The alkaloid-yield was from 2.0 to 2.6 per cent. The ash-yield was satisfactory, and in only two cases did the microscopic characters indicate impurity. One contained traces of *Cartagena ipecacuanha*, and the other, which showed evidence of parenchymatous cells, proved to be powdered galls which had been sold in error as *ipecacuanha*. Professor Greenish concluded by remarking that the condition of the powdered drugs examined so far showed an improvement on those of 1895, and he suggested that the research laboratory was quite the proper place for continuing the investigation. It is proposed next to take samples of powdered liquorice and senna.

DISCUSSION.

The PRESIDENT said it appeared that although gentian bears no relation in commercial value to *ipecacuanha* and *nux vomica*, the last two escape adulteration. He would like to know whether all the samples of gentian-powder were bought as B.P. gentian, as he believed that "veterinary" gentian is sold by the ton and at a price which makes it unlikely that the pure drug could be supplied.

Mr. J. C. UMNEY spoke of the importance of the authors' work, and referred to a paper he read before the Society of Public Analysts dealing with the characters of the umbelliferous powders supplied for animals. In the discussion which followed, the remark was made that there was no reason why animals should not be doctored with pure drugs. There is a powdered gentian sold for veterinary purposes which consists of "powdered anything." It emanates from Marseilles, and the low price is stated to result from the use of water power for grinding. "Of course," added Mr. Umney, "the powders obtained from reputable wholesale houses in this country have all the characteristics of the pure powder as stated by Professor Greenish." Continuing, Mr. Umney said he hoped public analysts would make an onslaught on these powders, as well as on the umbelliferous seeds. Public analysts welcome such papers as this, as they assist in framing standards to differentiate the "rotten" powders.

Mr. H. FINMORE thought it might be advisable to annotate the question to chemical experts, so that the amount of gentio-picrin might be assayed. It is not satisfactory to rely on the yield of extractive. He believed that there has lately been a good deal of work on the subject, and this included the estimation of gentio-picrin, for which doubtless a readily applied process existed.

Mr. E. M. HOLMES mentioned that the Austrian extractive figure is applied to *Gentiana pannonica*, which is official in Austria and largely used. Some time ago he received an inquiry from a wholesale house regarding a sample of powdered gentian of a pale colour, and evidently prepared from a root which had not undergone fermentation. The customer to whom the powder was supplied complained that it was too bitter for gentian. It was found to have come from another species. He thought it very desirable to ascertain variations in the yield of gentiopicrocin from different samples.

Mr. W. E. MILLER said that he recently came across a sample of powdered ippecacuanha which possessed no medicinal value. It was found necessary to use in its place a liquid extract.

Professor GREENISH, in reply, said he appreciated the encouraging remarks of the various speakers, as he had been almost afraid of being accused of having powdered "on the brain." Some one must take up the question, but to Mr. Umney he desired to say that he was not particularly anxious to assist public analysts—his object had been rather to protect pharmacists. He believed that the time is not far off when there will be an attack on powdered gentian. Mr. Finnmöre's suggestion is a valuable one, and in the full paper he (Professor Greenish) had mentioned that there are three bitter principles in gentian. Fermentation destroys the gentio-picrocin, but the other two bitter principles are retained. In reply to Mr. Holmes he stated that although the Austrian Pharmacopœia allows the use of *Gentiana pannonica* and *G. punctata*, it is chiefly *G. lutea* that is employed.

BLACK MUSTARD-SEEDS.

Professor GREENISH read the next paper, by himself and Miss Dorothy J. Bartlett, entitled "Black Mustard-seeds: their alleged Deficiency in Myrosin." This paper, he explained, gives the result of an investigation which has extended over two months. As is well known, the British Pharmacopœia mustard is a mixture of powdered black and white mustard-seeds, the reason for the mixing being usually stated to be because the black mustard is deficient in myrosin, and that as white mustard contains an excess the mixing ensures the decomposition of the whole of the sinigrin as well as the sinalbin, thus developing the maximum pungency. As this explanation does not harmonise with modern ideas of ferments, the present investigation was undertaken to get at the facts. The production of volatile oil of mustard (allyl isosulphocyanide) by the reaction of myrosin (the ferment) on sinigrin and the means of estimating the allyl isosulphocyanide were explained. Some two hundred determinations of volatile oil were made, the time of maceration being varied. Some old samples, 1851 and 1859, were also examined so as to judge of the effect of age on the yield. The conclusions arrived at were that in all the samples of black mustard-seed examined there is sufficient myrosin to decompose all the sinigrin present, and that properly preserved black mustard-seeds retain their myrosin unimpaired for many years. Two samples examined contained sufficient myrosin to decompose a much larger quantity of sinigrin than the seeds themselves contained.

There was no discussion on this paper, and the PRESIDENT, having commended the authors for the large amount of patient work involved in both their papers, proposed a vote of thanks, which was carried by acclamation.

THE VALUATION OF ASAFETIDA.

Mr. E. F. HARRISON then read a paper by himself and Mr. P. A. W. Self on "The Oil of Asafetida and the Valuation of the Drug." It was in the nature of a preliminary report. The authors stated that it was not their intention to deal with the questions of ash and alcohol soluble matter in asafetida, about which much has been written, but rather with the question of sophistication, accidental or intentional, of asafetida with other gum-resins or resins. The subject has even more importance commercially than pharmaceutically because of the rejection by the Customs Department of the United States of parcels of asafetida upon grounds which have not always been very evident or very definite. Quoting from the

report of Dr. W. H. Wiley, of the Bureau of Chemistry, it is stated that investigations and studies for the identification of galbanum, olibanum, and ammoniacum in asafetida have been made. These have not, however, been published, and it appears that some parcels have been rejected on less definite grounds than that they contain these foreign gums. Dr. H. H. Rusby, pharmacognosist to the United States Department of Agriculture, stated to the American Pharmaceutical Association that "it is not known what properties should constitute a standard for asafetida. . . . We know that two or more plants, but no one knows how many, yield gum-resins for which the name asafetida has always been accepted. . . . When . . . some of the substances picked out are unknown and have the asafetida odour and taste, it is a matter of opinion as to whether they form a legitimate part of the asafetida or not." Dr. Rusby further suggests that some properly qualified person should visit the asafetida region and make a thorough study of all questions pertaining to it, obtaining typical material from which a standard can be drawn. The authors also referred to a paper by Sechler and Becker in the "American Journal of Pharmacy" regarding colour-tests for galbanum and ammoniacum. Sodium hypobromite added to an emulsion of the gum-resin gives an olive-green colour with asafetida or galbanum, but a cherry red with ammoniacum; also sulphuric acid gives with asafetida or ammoniacum no colour, but with galbanum a reddish-violet. The number of specimens tested is not stated, and the figures given for the oils are open to question.

Oil of asafetida has not hitherto been very fully investigated. Flückiger gives the sp. gr. as 0.9515 at 25°, and the optical rotation as +13° to +19°, and states that the various samples examined by him contained from 20 to 25 per cent. of sulphur. Semmler in 1891 gave 0.975 to 0.990 as the sp. gr. of one sample of oil, and the optical rotation as -9° 15'. He fractionated the oil into seven constituents. He found 21.5 to 25.2 per cent. of sulphur in the samples he examined. In these cases insufficient details are given as to the number and origin of the samples. The percentage of oil is usually stated at 3 to 7 per cent., but Umney and Bunker estimated the proportion as 12 to 16 per cent. The authors have obtained a wider range—over 17 per cent.; in no case so little as 3 or 4 per cent.

The authors then gave particulars of the samples employed in the present investigation, mentioning that Messrs. Mann & Bishop, Mincing Lane, had allowed them to pick over several hundred cases for some of the samples. Other samples were also obtained.

The table given overleaf was shown on the blackboard, and Mr. Harrison explained the origin of the samples serially, and pointed out the particular specimens on the lecture-table to which he was referring. Nos. 1 and 2 were sorted over into different kinds of tears and examined separately, but with only a slight difference in the oil-yield; 3 was from last year's delivery, and had no indications of being mixed; 4 had mixed with the tears some rather soft mass; 5 consisted of tears picked out from a mixture of mass and tears. These all came from Persian ports. No. 6 was a poor sample of small tears and loosely aggregated mass from Bombay; 7 and 8 were soft masses, 7 being shipped in hides and turning pink quickly on exposure to air, 8 was shipped in tins, but was practically unaffected by exposure to air. No. 9 was of the conglomerate or "almond-rock" character; 10 was purchased from a London wholesale house as "fine soft." Nos. 11 to 15 were mixed samples received in the ordinary course for analysis. No. 16 was a museum specimen supplied by Mr. Holmes. It contained a good deal of umbels and fruits mixed with the gum, which proved that it was not the product of either *Ferula Narthex* or *F. foetida*.

The percentages of loss on drying in the water-oven, of resin, oil, and ash were determined, and to obtain the amount soluble in alcohol for B.P. and U.S.P. requirements the first two columns must be added together. The oil was obtained by steam-distillation, and as some workers have experienced a difficulty here the authors gave the details:

Weigh out 100 grams of the gum-resin, beat in a mortar with a little water to form an emulsion, making up to

400 c.c. This is heated in a glycerin bath and steam passed through, the distillation being continued until the amount of oil coming over is negligible. The oil in the separating funnel is then collected and the water extracted with petroleum ether, the vessels being also rinsed with the same solvent, for the purpose of preventing waste of oil. The amount recovered was in every case very small.

The sp. gr., refractive index, and optical rotation were determined in the usual manner, but in the determination

tains free umbelliferone, and if, therefore, a strong blue fluorescence is obtained on adding ammonia to a tincture of the gum-resin, the presence of galbanum is indicated. The test is quite sensitive, and as asafetida yields umbelliferone on heating, the test distinguishes it from ammoniacum and olibanum. The authors also mentioned that the hypobromite and sulphuric-acid tests referred to in the beginning of the paper can be applied to the surfaces of fresh fractures, and give good results.

		Loss on drying, %	Resin %	Oil %	Ash %	s.g. of Oil at 15.5°	Refractive Index of Oil, at 20°	Rotation of Oil (1 dm.)	Percentage of Sulphur in Oil	Oil, as per- centage of real Gum-resin	Sulphur in Oil, as percentage of Drug	Sulphur in Oil, as percentage of real Gum-resin
1	Fine tears ...	12.2	62.3	11.0	1.6	0.976	1.5200	-10° 16'	28.2	11.2	3.10	3.16
2	" ...	18.0	59.7	16.4	1.4	0.975	1.5152	-9° 0'	21.6	16.6	3.54	3.59
3	Large tears ...	14.7	58.6	9.4	6.7	0.917	1.4952	+6° 58'	19.3	10.0	1.81	1.93
4	Tears and mass ...	11.4	64.0	5.8	3.4	0.981	1.5207	-9° 30'	29.2	6.0	1.69	1.75
5	Tears ...	11.7	45.3	10.1	27.0	0.915	1.4942	+9° 39'	17.5	13.8	1.77	2.42
6	Tears (from Bombay) ...	9.7	28.9	7.2	32.6	0.993	1.5250	-35° 55'	37.8	10.7	2.72	4.04
7	Soft mass ...	18.2	55.8	11.1	9.2	0.918	1.4980	+0° 50'	20.8	12.2	2.31	2.54
8	" ...	22.3	56.3	15.7	4.9	0.920	1.4978	+4° 40'	19.7	16.5	3.09	3.25
9	Conglomerate ...	13.0	51.3	9.6	10.3	0.925	1.4993	+4° 32'	21.6	10.7	2.07	2.31
10	" ...	9.8	63.7	7.3	3.2	0.957	1.5077	-17° 3'	19.9	7.5	1.45	1.49
11	Mixed ...	15.7	39.2	14.1	23.9	0.923	1.4985	—	—	18.5	—	—
12	" ...	19.4	47.8	16.7	6.2	0.927	1.4982	—	—	17.8	—	—
13	" ...	17.4	36.9	11.9	22.9	0.930	1.4997	—	—	15.4	—	—
14	" ...	19.3	48.0	14.1	9.4	0.930	1.4987	—	—	15.6	—	—
15	" ...	22.3	50.1	17.1	4.3	0.929	1.4999	—	—	17.9	—	—
16	Museum specimen ...	—	—	8.6	—	0.956	1.5074	+2° 25'	24.6	—	2.12	—
	Galbanum ...	—	—	10.3	—	0.908	1.4856	+15° 14'	—	—	—	—

of sulphur the following was the process adopted after a long series of experiments:

About 0.5 gram of the oil is weighed into a 150 c.c. flask, connected by a ground joint to the tube of a vertical condenser; 5 c.c. of water is added through the tube, followed by 5 c.c. of nitric acid. The flask is warmed, if necessary, to start the action, which then proceeds somewhat vigorously. Next 3 grams of powdered potassium bromide is dropped in through the condenser tube, the liquid boiled for ten minutes, cooled, and 5 grams of caustic soda, dissolved in a little water, added in the same manner. The liquid is then evaporated to dryness in a platinum vessel and ignited. The residue is dissolved in water, nitric and nitrous acid removed by evaporation with hydrochloric acid, and the sulphate determined in the usual way.

The apparatus in which this reaction takes place was shown on the lecture-table. The results obtained were then explained, and the point elicited that "high percentage of sulphur in the oil goes with high sp. gr., high refractive index and laevorotation, while the lowest percentage of sulphur goes with the lowest sp. gr. and refractive index and highest dextrorotation." It was also stated that the dextrorotatory oils of low gravity came over much more rapidly, and the first portions of the distillate had a fragrant terpene-like odour. The figures, it was pointed out, do not indicate any general differences between tears and mass. The amount of oil present in real gum-resin is calculated after deducting the ash, and in the same way the sulphur and sulphur in oil is calculated, these affording the best evidence of the genuineness or quality of the gum-resin. It will be seen that these correspond approximately to the values of the various samples. While the authors disclaimed dogmatism on account of the small number of samples examined, they suggest provisionally that when the amount of sulphur in the oil is not under 1.5 per cent. of the real gum-resin there is a *prima facie* case for regarding the drug as genuine.

The last part of the paper dealt with the oils from the adulterants of asafetida—olibanum, galbanum, and ammoniacum—none of which contain sulphur. Any considerable admixture would reduce the sulphur-content of the oil. The last row of figures in the table refers to the constants obtained from a typical specimen of galbanum. The umbelliferone test could be utilised to some extent in detecting these sophistications as follows: Galbanum con-

DISCUSSION.

The PRESIDENT said it surprised him to hear that there are so many varieties of asafetida, and he remarked that the drug is now seldom employed.

Mr. UMNEY said that nine-tenths of the asafetida is used for culinary purposes, such as flavouring German sausage, etc. For this purpose the mass is preferred. The medicinal position is not, however, very clear, but most references agree that the volatile oil is the active part, without any reference to the sulphur-content. Dieterich seems to prefer the mass asafetida, but his observations, confirmed by the authors, show that this variety contains less sulphur. Mr. Umney hoped that now the Therapeutic Committee of the British Pharmacopœia would take up the question seriously, and see what effects the oil has upon hysterical persons.

Mr. FINNEMORE could see a future before asafetida when the National Insurance Act comes into force in "choking off" malingerers.

Mr. OSBORNE said his knowledge of asafetida was from the commercial side, and he was glad that the authors were doing such good work from the scientific side. It required something definite to throw light on the darkness at present prevailing.

Mr. E. M. HOLMES said there are six species yielding asafetida. He had told Dr. Rusby in correspondence that it is quite unlikely that a scarce and dear product like galbanum would be employed to adulterate asafetida. Mr. Holmes also referred to some efforts he had made to have explored the districts yielding asafetida, but without definite results. Mr. Osborne has promised to try to obtain specimens of the plants which yield the gum. It ought to be ascertained whether the resin contains any properties before fixing on the oil as the active principle. He suggested two standards, one for medicinal gum and the other for culinary purposes.

Professor GREENISH said it seems that the oil is the active principle, and if so, it seemed advisable to use that alone in medicine. This would remove a great difficulty from the path of those who are assisting in the revision of the British Pharmacopœia.

The PRESIDENT said he had once a customer who used to buy a piece of asafetida, which he employed by rubbing it on the hot plate from which he ate his beef-steak.

Mr. HARRISON, in reply, said that on the whole the mass is quite equal to the tears, while the soft mass is an excellent sample of the drug. There is a good deal of difficulty in giving the characteristics of the oil, as the sulphur compounds present are four in number, and are not always there in the same proportions.

A vote of thanks was given to the authors.

Among the exhibits in the examination-hall was a specimen of massoi bark from the South Sea Islands, together with some essential oil distilled from it by Messrs. W. J. Bush & Co., Ltd.

TRADE-MARKS.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications must be stated on Form T.M. No. 7 (obtainable at Money Order Offices for £1) and lodged with Mr. Temple Franks, Comptroller-General, Patents Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned.

The figures in parentheses refer to the classes in which the marks are desired.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," February 7, 1912.)

"SEMINCH"; for photographic chemicals, plates, and films (1). By A. A. Kelly, Willpha, Longlands, Park Road, Sideup. 338,612.

"NERVICITIN"; for medicated foods (3). By Dr. Med. Karl Hartmann Co., Ltd., 36 Magdeburgerstrasse, Berlin. 334,693.

"PANCROFIN"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By J. W. Wigglesworth, R. S. Taylor, and H. Rigby, Rosehill Works, Grant Street, Bolton. 338,172.

"KARNA"; for a medicine (3). By W. Finnigan, 52a Emmanuel Road, Balham, S.W. 338,471.

"ISATOPHAN"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By E. Schering, 170 and 171 Müllerstrasse, Berlin. 338,519.

"NIERILIN"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By A. S. Wehner, 57 Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C. 338,817.

"OSPOLOT"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By the Bayer Co., Ltd., 20 Booth Street, Manchester. 339,296.

"HURCLASTIC"; for elastic webbing containing india-rubber (40). By Faire Bros. & Co., Ltd., 2 Southampton Street, Leicester. 336,882.

"SESQUITO" ("Sesqui" disclaimed); for essential oils (42). By A. Whittaker, 793 Oldham Road, Newton Heath, Manchester. 335,205.

"ENERGEN"; for food substances (42). By Therapeutic Foods Co., 22 Bedford Chambers, Covent Garden, London, W.C. 337,793.

"LIVOSAL"; for effervescent salts (42). By Sutcliffe & Bingham, Ltd., Ogden Street, Cornbrook, Manchester. 338,595.

"ASTOL"; for a preparation for the hair (48). By Edwards' Harlene Co., 95-96 High Holborn, London, W.C. 337,243.

"EDELWEISS," with design of five circles in form of cross; for all goods (48). By Edith Viscountess Castlereagh, Londonderry House, Park Lane, London. 338,419.

"VEGLEF"; for a booklet consisting of sheets prepared with rouge-substitute (48). By S. J. Hudson, Sandringham House, Wells Road, Upper Sydenham. 338,649.

"ANTIFRICE"; for perfumery, etc. (48). By Boof's Pure Drug Co., Ltd., 37 Station Street, Nottingham. 339,245.

NEW BOOKS.

Clemson, H. *Office Procedure and Business Correspondence: Being a Guide to a Commercial Career.* 8x4 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pp. 252. 2s. net. (Butterworth.)

Fuchs, E. *Text-book of Ophthalmology.* 4th edit. 8vo. 25s. net. (Macmillan.)

Garrett, A. E. *Advance of Photography: Its History and Modern Applications.* 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ x5 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pp. 398. 12s. 6d. net. (K. Paul.)

Matriculation Directory, London, No. 59. Cr. 8vo. Pp. 150. 1s. net. (Clive.)

Whymper, R. *Cocoa and Chocolate: Their Chemistry and Manufacture.* 10x6 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pp. 340. 15s. net. (Churchill.)

A DUBLIN REPORT that the police there have applied the Great Britain regulations to ammonia is incorrect.

TRADE REPORT.

The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers receive the goods into stock, after which much expense may be incurred in garbling and the like. Qualities of chemicals, drugs, oils, and many other commodities vary greatly, and higher prices than those here quoted are charged for selected qualities of natural products even in bulk quantities. Retail buyers cannot, therefore, for these and other reasons, expect to purchase at the prices quoted here.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., February 15.

SOME departments of the drug business are still dull, but there is a more confident feeling in the market, especially in heavy chemicals. Menthol is in better inquiry and decidedly higher, while the Sicilian essences are rising daily, with some justification. Cod-liver oil is sagging; our cable from Bergen this morning shows that the fishing is good, and there is no room for despondency at present. Prices are lower in consequence. Sugar of milk is lower, oil of cloves and cream of tartar are easier, the price of silver has affected aniseed oil and soy, Malta strip orange-peel is much dearer, liquorice root is scarcer, lime-juice firm, ipecacuanha a turn better, hydrastis and jalap dearer, cascara firmer, and ergot is unchanged. Quicksilver having risen on Tuesday by 2s. 6d. per bottle, the manufacturers of mercurials have put them up 1d. a lb. Potassium iodide is also dearer owing to nothing coming forward from Japan. The following table summarises the changes:

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Ammon. sulphate	Acetates	Cloves	Cod-liver oil
Bergamot oil	Buchu	Cream of tartar	Ol. anygd. ess.
Cascara	Cascara		Ol. anygd.
Canary-seed	sagrada	Glycerin	persic.
Chamomiles	Copaiba		Shellac
Citronella oil	Creosote		Sugar of milk
Copper sulphate	(wood)		
Coriander	Ipecacuanha		
Gambier	Orange oil		
Hydrastis	Vanilla		
Jalap			
Lemon oil			
Menthol			
Mercurials			
Potass. iodide			
Potass. nitrate			
Quicksilver			
Quillaia			
Sodium nitrate			
Turpentine			

Cablegrams.

SMYRNA, February 13.—American buyers have swept the market of all eligible offerings of opium at 28s. to 30s. per lb.

BERGEN, February 15.—The reports from Lofoten indicate a decided improvement in the fishing, with good results. The market is easy at 94s. per barrel for refined medicinal oil.

NEW YORK, February 15.—Business is quiet. Opium is lower at \$8.25 per lb.; oil of peppermint is \$2.85, and dull; hydrastis easier at \$4.85; Cartagena ipecac. has declined to \$1.80; sarsaparilla easier at 18c.; buchu-leaves have advanced to \$1.35; Maracaibo copaiba is steady at 47c.; and Para copaiba easier at 52c. There is no change in cascara sagrada.

London Markets.

ACETATES are a firm market. Manufacturers have difficulty in getting supplies of raw material, and are in consequence behind in filling orders. This applies particularly to acetic acid.

ALCOHOL.—The Continental market is firm for all grades, and buyers are being advised to fill their requirements up to October-November, when a change is predicted. So far this has not affected the market for British distilled spirit.

At a meeting of the Provincial Association of Liqueur Manufacturers and Distillery and Spirit Manufactory Proprietors for Rhineland-Westphalia and the neighbourhood, held in Crefeld on January 31, it was resolved that the "inconsiderate and tactless action of the Spirit Central in transferring the whole burden of the failure of the crops on to the shoulders of the spirit-consuming industry compels the Provincial Association to take a hostile attitude towards further Convention negotiations. Through the pronounced rise in the price of spirit the Central has made the realisation of the idea of an agreement among the ex-ering spirit manufacturers of Rhenish Westphalia an impossibility."

ALMOND OIL (ESSENTIAL).—Lower, English distillers having reduced their prices to 16s. 6d. per lb., but oil *sine acid. prussic.* remains at 18s. *Ol. persic. essent.* is also reduced to 14s. and the *s.a.p.* to 15s.

ALOES.—A considerable quantity of Curaçao has been cleared off the Hamburg market, making the drug considerably dearer there. No effect is felt on the London market, the stocks here being sufficient to meet the slow demand.

According to statistics of the Hamburg trade published by the "Apotheker Zeitung," the total exports of aloes from the Cape rose from 196,508 kilos. in 1898 to 266,028 kilos. in 1899, compared with 287,681 kilos. in 1900, rising subsequently in 1901, 1902, and 1903 to 189,251 kilos., 150,378 kilos., and 163,886 kilos. respectively. The average output of the West India Islands at the beginning of the 'nineties amounted to between 6,000 and 7,000 cases of from 50 to 70 kilos. each, but fell in 1904 to 5,000 cases. Owing to further reductions in output the exports subsequently fell to 2,000 cases. According to the estimates of a leading firm, exports of Curaçao aloes from Bonaire in 1901, 1902, and 1903 amounted to 12,695 kilos., 31,599 kilos., and 24,014 kilos. respectively; those from Aruba in the same years amounting to 185,720 kilos., 432,349 kilos., and 192,365 kilos. respectively. London is the principal market for aloes.

ANISEED is quoted 29s. per cwt. for Russian on the spot, and for shipment 27s. 6d. c.i.f. terms.

ANISEED OIL, both spot and to arrive, is firmer, 6s. now being asked for both positions.

ASAFTIDA.—More paste has been sold at 9l. per cwt. Buyers are apparently waiting to see if this type will pass the American Customs.

BELLADONNA-ROOT is quoted down to 36s. per cwt. spot, but this comparatively low price has not stimulated the demand.

BENZOLIN.—Forty-nine cases of Sumatra, and nine cases of Palembang have arrived.

BERGAMOT OIL.—All advices received this week from production centres and from those who have returned from the Continental markets corroborate last week's report as to high prices which are ruling. The lowest quotation for new crop is now 30s. c.i.f. up to 35s. In consequence of the high prices, much of the oil is adulterated with synthetic esters, and other difficult-to-detect contaminants, so that both large and small buyers must exercise great care. The Palermo market is excited, and quotations were withdrawn at the beginning of the week.

BORAX.—Unchanged and in good inquiry. An advance may be expected in view of the subjoined Reuter message:

Santiago de Chile, February 12.—In view of the immense borax deposits in the Province of Antofagasta, the Government is considering the institution of an export-tax on borax, which would form a valuable addition to the resources of the Treasury.

BROMIDES are steady and in good demand at unaltered rates.

BUCHU.—Considerable activity has been shown. We understand that a large arrival business has been done up

to 4s. per lb. for round leaf, and no more is obtainable at the price, 4s. 3d. being wanted, and 4s. 6d. for fine greens. Clean longs in second-hands are quoted at 2s. 6d., and 2s. has been paid for ordinary quality.

CANARY-SEED is dearer at 50s. per quarter for ordinary and 52s. to 53s. for good quality.

CANTHARIDES.—For prompt shipment 2s. 11d. c.i.f. is quoted for Russian.

CARAWAY-SEED is steady at 27s. per cwt. for fair Dutch on the spot.

CASCARA SAGRADA looks like advancing. Advices from the Pacific Coast are to the effect that the stocks held there do not exceed 150 tons, and the prices are above what are asked in London—viz. 40s. to 42s. 6d. per cwt.

CASTOR OIL.—Belgian medicinal is 29s. 6d. per cwt. in barrels, and 33s. 6d. in cases; Italian 39s. in cases.

CHAMOMILES continue to rise owing to the scarcity. For small brownish 105s. to 107s. 6d., medium white 112s. 6d. to 117s. 6d., and good white 125s. to 130s. per cwt. are quoted. For wild closed flowers one dealer asks 178s.

CINNAMON.—Little business of importance was done at the auctions on Wednesday. Forty bales Tellicherry broken were offered and sold at 9½d. to 10d.; six bales Ceylon sold without reserve, coarse quill firsts, 11½d., second at 8d., third at 6d., and fourth at 5½d. to 6d. Also three packages bark at 2½d.

CITRIC ACID.—Last week's quotations are unchanged—viz., English 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 4½d. per lb. and foreign 1s. 4d.

CITRONELLA OIL.—For April-June shipment 1s. 0¾d. c.i.f. is now asked.

CLOVE OIL is weaker in sympathy with the fruit which sold in Wednesday's spice sales at 4½d. per lb. Last week's quotation would be shaded.

CLOVES.—Easier. Good Zanzibar sold in auction at 4½d. per lb., and dark at 4¾d. Fine Seychelles were bought in at 9d. and Penang at 1s. 1d.

COCA-LEAVES.—At the Amsterdam auctions on February 22 there will be offered 1,584 bales of coca-leaves (86,954 kilos.), containing an average of 1.74 per cent. of total alkaloids (1,495 kilos.).

COCCULUS INDICUS is quoted at 13s. to 14s. for spot.

COD-LIVER OIL.—The tendency is lower in view of favourable advices from the fishing centres, and quotations have dropped to 92s. per barrel c.i.f., but the best brands are several shillings higher. It will be wise for buyers to operate cautiously for a week or two, until the results of the fishing become better known.

Our Bergen correspondent, writing on February 12, reports that the past week's fishing shows no great increase of the catch. The following are the quantities to date:

	1912.	1911.	1910.
Cod, millions ...	7.9	2.1	3.6
Cod-liver oil (hect.) ...	8,000	1,400	3,000
Livers for "raw" oils (hect.)	2,050	1,420	2,380

In Lofoten the proportion of cod-liver oil produced per million of cod is not so satisfactory. The following quantities are reported:

	1912.	1911.	1910.
Cod, millions ...	0.580	0.130	0.500
Cod-liver oil (hect.) ...	408	104	444
Livers for "raw" oils (hect.)	101	38	208

From Lofoten the size of the cod is given as 275/260 kilos. per 100 fish, the liver as 420/550 to fill the hectolitre, and the percentage of oil contained in the liver as 42/46 per cent. Thus the fish and the liver are not very great, but the latter is very fine and fat. On the oil-market, the tendency is still very calm. At last quotation of 98s. per barrel f.o.b. Bergen there are no buyers at present, and to-day not more than 95s. per barrel f.o.b. is offered. The total exports from Norway of cod-liver oil in January amount to 2,070 barrels.

COLLODION.—The advanced quotations given in our last issue for flexible and surgical collodions were for the article in bond *minus* the duty, which is at the rate of 1l. 14s. 11d. per gal.

COLOCYNTH.—The bulk of the damaged colocynth sold at last week's sales is believed to be for export. The first-hand market is firm at 7½d. for pale pulp and 6½d. for brownish ditto.

COPAIBA is scarce in primary markets, no shipments having arrived in London for some time. The position is one of scarcity, and the former price of 2s. 1d. to 2s. 2d. is maintained.

CORIANDER-SEED is much dearer on the spot, 17s. per cwt. having been paid for Morocco; the price for shipment is also slightly dearer at 14s. 6d. to 15s. c.i.f. terms.

CREAM OF TARTAR continues on the downward path, 98-per-cent. is now quoted at 80s.

CREOSOTE.—Firmers, but makers have stopped selling beechwood medicinal at 1s. 8d. per lb., which was the last quotation, and 1s. 8½d. is wanted.

CUMIN-SEED is in quiet demand at 25s. per cwt. for retail lots of fair Morocco.

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—There is a fair demand, but up to the present there are no arrivals.

ERCOT.—The market is fluctuating, but not very active. For February-March shipments from Hamburg 3s. 1d. to 3s. 4d. is asked for German, but the price is largely speculative. Russian, prompt shipment, is quoted at 3s. 9d. Spanish is scarce, and worth 4s. 6d. to 4s. 9d. on the spot.

ETHER.—British makers have not advanced their prices.

EUCALYPTUS OIL.—The s.s. *Ayrshire* has brought 124 cases from Melbourne. Considering the time of the year, the demand is backward. For B.P. oil (75 to 80 per cent. eucalyptol) 1s. 3d. has been paid, and 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. is wanted for the *Globulus* variety.

FENUGREEK-SEED is quoted 10s. to 10s. 6d. per cwt., but no sales are reported.

GALLS are easy, with no business doing.

GAMBIER is dearer, sellers wanting 25s. per cwt. c.i.f. for March-May shipment.

GAMBOGE is in fair inquiry, the Siam pipe left over from the drug-auctions being sold, and fair pipe is not now obtainable under 12l. 10s. The arrivals are *nil*, and stocks are getting low.

GLYCERIN.—The market is unchanged, but, if anything, is weaker in second-hands, chiefly owing to the absence of demand, but on the Continent second-hand holders are eager to realise.

GUM ARABIC.—Business in *East Indian* is indifferent. Good No. 1 Ghatti has sold to a small extent at 40s. per cwt. spot. Quotations for forward shipment are unchanged. *Soudan* fair sorts have declined to 45s. per cwt. To arrive, offers of 35s. per cwt. c.i.f. have not been accepted by buyers. *Senegal* gum of second quality is offered at 40s. 6d. per cwt. f.o.b. Bordeaux.

HYDRASTIS has advanced by from 6d. to 9d. on the week, the present price being 22s. per lb. spot. This is owing to increased demand from Hamburg, and American shippers are slow to part with the drug.

IODINE.—The advance in the price of potassium iodide leaves crude and refined iodine unchanged.

IPECACUANHA.—There is a fair inquiry, but not much business doing. Minas has sold at 3s. 8d. There are no arrivals to date for next sales. For Matto Grosso 9s. has been paid. It is thought we shall see higher prices for Cartagena before long. The present price is 8s.

JALAP.—Dearer owing to the crops in Mexico having been injured by the frost; 1s. 3d. is now wanted here for 10 p.c. root and 1s. to 1s. 1d. for less rich drug, while from Orizaba comes a cabled price 9½d. c.i.f. for 6-per-cent. nominal, February-March shipment.

LEMON OIL is a shilling per lb. dearer this week, up to 6s. 8d. and 7s. per lb. c.i.f. being wanted for new crop of good brand. Terpeneless oil is also dearer, 65s. now being the price.

A Palermo advice of February 10 states that business was again active that week. Buyers were continually in the market, and it was therefore easy for the sellers to drive up still further the prices for this commodity. Consumers abroad are only slowly following the movement, but those who are compelled to buy cannot but agree to pay the full market values which prevail over here. The transactions are not limited only to prompt goods (for which, however, a premium is paid), but also for forward delivery buyers are actively

endeavouring to secure goods, notwithstanding the gradual rise in figures. On the whole it appears that the crop conditions are worse than was anticipated, and both this fact and the position of the market for fresh fruits seem to justify to some extent the tendency of the market, while speculative interests which are at stake this season also contribute largely to the firmness of the position.

LIME-JUICE continues scarce. A sale is reported of very fine pale juice at 1s. 9½d. per gal.

LINSEED is unchanged at 68s. to 72s. per quarter for fair to good quality.

LIQUORICE.—Decorticated root, both whole and cut, continues exceedingly dear and scarce. Rough Persian is quoted on the spot at 30s. per cwt. and very poor cut at 45s. to 50s.

MENTHOL.—The firmer tone of the market noted last week is maintained, and there has been a good deal of inquiry during the week, business being done at higher rates. No more of January-March shipment at 19s. c.i.f. is available, and from 19s. 6d. to 19s. 9d. has been paid; for goods nearer at hand 20s. 6d. is asked to-night. Spot is 22s. to 23s. 6d.

MERCURIALS.—On Wednesday morning the manufacturers advanced their prices by 1d. per lb. all round, following up the advances of 5s. and 2s. 6d. upon the metal reported last week and this. The makers' prices are as follows: *Calomel*, 3s. 1½d. per lb.; *Corrosive Sublimate*, 2s. 9½d.; *Red Oxide*, 3s. 5d.; *Yellow Oxide*, 3s. 2½d.; *White Precipitate*, 3s. 5d.; *Persulphate*, 2s. 9½d.; and *Black Sulphide* 2s. 9½d. for quantities under 2 cwt. The last alteration was on December 6, 1911, when prices were reduced by 1½d. per lb.

OLIBANUM.—Sales of good drop have been made at 40s. per cwt.

OLIVE OIL is rather a better market, oils for technical purposes having advanced by 1l. per ton. Ordinary edible oils are obtainable at last week's quotations.

OPIMUM.—Smyrna cables include the sale of between 60 and 70 cases of opium, containing 11 per cent. of morphine, at 26s. 10d. It is now reported that sellers have withdrawn from the market, so that prices are well maintained. Nothing doing here.

ORANGE OIL.—The tendency is firmer.

From Palermo it is advised that stocks are small and firmly held, the more so as requirements are continually alive also in this section, while the favourable feeling for all Sicilian essential oils encourages the sellers not to give way easily.

ORANGE-PEEL.—It seems pretty certain that there will be no arrivals this season of Malta strip. The market is almost bare, the few cases to be found are firmly held at 1s. to 1s. 1d. per lb. New season's English hand-cut can be had at 1s. 3d.

PEACH-KERNEL OIL.—English pressed has been reduced by 1d. per lb. and foreign by ½d.

PEPPER.—In auction 69 bags of Lampong were bought in at 5½d. per lb. for fair, and 67 bags of shells sold without reserve at 10s. to 12s. 6d. per cwt. There is little doing on the spot. *White pepper* is firmer, Singapore sellers asking 8d. per lb., c.i.f., for March-May shipment.

POTASSIUM IODIDE was advanced by 7d. per lb. on February 12, to the parity of 9s. 3d. per lb. for small lots, and proportionately higher prices for 1 cwt. and upwards. This brings the price to what it was in March 1908, when the makers reduced the price by 7d. per lb. The present advance has been favoured by the absence of Japanese competition. Other iodine compounds are unaltered. The market is good.

QUICKSILVER.—The importers advanced their price yesterday by 2s. 6d. per bottle, making the value 8l. 7s. 6d.; in second-hands 8l. 6s. 6d. is wanted, and the market closes firm.

QUILLAYA.—From Hamburg the rising tendency is reported to have made further progress, and as offers for whole bark are only obtainable from Chili at prices considerably in excess of the Hamburg quotations, the prices on that market have been raised to 57.50m. per 100 kilos., and cut bark is 63m. It is probable, therefore, that a

further advance will take place, especially as the crop is reported to be inadequate.

QUININE continues in good demand, but there is no change in prices..

SALICYLATES.—The easier rates for carbolic acid have checked the expected advance of salicylic acid and salicylates.

SALTPETRE.—English makers of potassium nitrate have advanced their prices by 1s. per cwt. in sympathy with the rise in Chilean saltpetre, noted elsewhere in this report.

SANTONIN is expected to go even higher than it is, but so far there is no advance upon last week's quotations on the parity of 76s. per lb.

SARSAPARILLA.—Further inquiry continues for grey Jamaica, of which 10 bales have arrived. The arrivals of Lima are 16, and 12 of native Jamaica are expected. Of the latter kind red is inquired for.

SENEGA is likely to be dearer; 2s. 8d. has been paid by foreign buyers.

SHELLAC.—At auction, of the 536 cases offered without reserve 447 sold at a decline of 1s. to 3s. for Second Orange, and 1s. for Garnet. Of Second Orange, fine bright flat free and ditto curly, slightly matted, sold at 75s.; fine bright (in Liverpool), 72s.; bright reddish, slightly matted, 69s. to 70s.; pale reddish, flat, free, 66s. to 67s.; matted to blocky, 65s. to 66s. Fair to good reddish TN, slightly matted, 64s. to 65s.; palish blocky, 63s.; brownish, flat, free, 57s. to 58s.; dark red, matted to blocky, 56s. to 57s.; and common blocky, 50s. to 51s. Of Garnet 108 cases offered and sold, AC slightly cakey, 60s., with one lot at 61s. GAL, cakey and blocky, 53s.; ruby, hard cakey to blocky, 30s. to 31s. Eighteen cases button sold at 57s. for low dark resinous mixed, free and blocky pieces. Privately spot business is quiet. For arrival TN January-February shipment sold at 60s., and March-April 61s., and sellers c.i.f. Futures are easier, March delivery selling at 61s. 6d., and May at 62s. 6d. to 62s. August is quoted buyers at 63s., and sellers at 64s.

SOY.—Woochan is quoted at 1s. 5d. per lb. and Senloong at 1s. 4½d., the market being firm.

SUGAR OF MILK is lower at 83s. to 85s. per cwt. on spot. For forward shipment a much lower figure would be accepted.

TARTARIC ACID in crystals is 1s. 0½d. for English and a farthing less for foreign make.

TRAGACANTH keeps dear. Seconds are selling at 17l. 10s.

TURPENTINE.—American oil has gone up by 3d. per cwt. to 34s. 6d. on the spot.

VANILLA was in small supply at Wednesday's sale, and sold with fair competition at 6d. to 1s. lower for firsts and shorts, and 1s. dearer for foxy and split. The following are the prices obtained:—

Mauritius.—Of 90 tins which sold, fair to good, 8 to 8½ in., were 18s.; 7½ to 8 in., 17s.; 7 to 7½ in., 16s. to 16s. 6d.; 6 to 7 in., 15s. 6d. to 16s. down to 13s. 6d. to 15s. 6d. for splits.

Seychelles.—The sales amounted to 229 tins, fair to good, 7 to 8½ in., 15s. to 17s. 6d.; 5½ to 7 in., 14s. to 15s. 6d.; and common were 12s. 6d. to 15s. 6d.

Madagascar.—Of the 38 tins sold out of 116, fair to good, 8 to 8½ in. were 17s.; 7 to 8 in., 16s. to 16s. 6d.; 4½ to 7 in., 13s. to 15s. 6d.; and common, 12s. to 14s. 6d.

Bourbon.—The prices obtained, subject to sellers' approval, were: Fair to good, 3½ to 7 in., 14s. 6d. to 16s. 6d.; and common, 13s.

WAX, VEGETABLE.—Chalky grey Carnauba sold at 142s. 6d. to 145s., but 150s. is wanted and has been paid.

Heavy Chemicals.

Business in the heavy-chemical market continues very firm, both on home and export account, and generally the tone of the market is steady. There is an increased inquiry for early forward delivery.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.—This article is steady and tends firmer, owing to possible short supply because of difficulties in the coal trade. Present nearest figures are: Beckton, 25 per cent. ammonia guaranteed, prompt, 14l. 2s. 6d.; London terms, 13l. 17s. 6d.; Leith, 14l. 12s. 6d.; Liverpool, 14l. 11s. 3d. to 14l. 12s. 6d.; and Hull, 14l. 8s. 9d.

ALKALI-PRODUCE.—Contracts are being well taken up, and there is also a good all-round demand on outside account for both main and miscellaneous products. Bleaching-powder, 4l. 15s. to 5l. per ton for softwood casks on rails, prompt; contract basis, 4l. 2s. 6d. to 4l. 7s. 6d. Caustic soda, home trade, 76 to 77 per cent., 10l. 7s. 6d.; 70 per cent., 9l. 12s. 6d.; and 60 per cent., 8l. 12s. 6d., with export figures 7s. 6d. per ton less. Ammonia alkali, 58 per cent., 4l. to 4l. 5s. per ton in bags on rails, and 4l. 15s. in casks f.o.b. Liverpool. At the time of writing no definite statement regarding the amount of the reduction from July 1 has been made. Soda crystals 2l. 2s. 6d. to 2l. 5s. per ton on rails in bags. Bicarbonate of soda in steady inquiry at 5l. to 5l. 15s. per ton, according to packages, etc. Saltcake steady at 42s. 6d. Chlorates of potash and soda, 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb. Yellow prussiates have maintained their firmer tone, and are steady at 4½d. to 4¾d. for potash and 3d. to 3½d. for soda. Hyposulphite of soda is on the quiet side and a trifle variable. Ordinary crystals in casks run 4l. 12s. 6d. to 5l. 5s. per ton, according to make. Deliveries in 1-cwt. kegs 5l. 7s. 6d. to 7l. 15s. per ton according to quality and quantity. Silicates of soda in fair demand at unaltered figures; 140° Tw., 4l. 7s. 6d. to 4l. 17s. 6d.; 100° Tw., 3l. 17s. 6d. to 4l. 7s. 6d.; and 75° Tw., 3l. 10s. to 4l. per ton, according to quality, quantity, and destination.

Manchester Chemical Market.

February 13.

Exports for the month of January are scarcely so satisfactory as was the case in the corresponding period of last year. A better demand is reported for shipment of heavy chemicals during the past week, but it is rather dull on home account in this department. Prices of caustic soda, ammonia alkali, and bleaching-powder, however, show little change. Sulphate of copper, owing probably to smaller offerings in second-hands, has advanced, and may be quoted 22l. 10s. to 22l. 15s. per ton, best brands, prompt, delivered Manchester, with 2s. 6d. to 5s. per ton more asked for forward delivery. Nitrate of soda prices rule about 5s. per ton better on the week. Sulphur is in better inquiry. Flowers quoted 8l. 10s. per ton 2-cwt. barrels, rock 5l. 5s. per ton 3-cwt. bags, and recovered sulphur 4l. 12s. 6d. to 4l. 15s. per ton, f.o.r. at works. White powdered arsenic in fair request. Acids and cream of tartar steady. In coal-tar products there is a steady feeling. Sulphate of ammonia dearer at 14l. 7s. 6d. to 14l. 8s. 9d. Official quotations for crude, dynamite, and chemically pure glycerin are 46l., 70l., and 95l. per ton, less 2½ per cent. 5-ton contracts respectively.

BLENDING OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN WINES.—The Commissioners of Customs and Excise desire to make known to all traders concerned that in pursuance of the powers vested in the Commissioners by Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1911, they are about to issue regulations, to come into force on April 1 next:

(1) restricting within certain specified limits the mixing of British with foreign wine; and

(2) prohibiting the sale of wine so mixed, except such as may be mixed under the conditions prescribed in the regulations.

In order to avoid as far as possible inconvenience to traders, a period, which the Commissioners, as at present advised, propose to fix at three months, will be allowed for the disposal of existing stocks of mixed wine remaining in hand on April 1.

PHARMACEUTICAL SPECIALITIES IN URUGUAY.—The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of the Uruguayan "Ley de Farmacias," dated April 25, 1910, which provides that, from April 25, 1912, pharmaceutical specialities, the sale of which has not been authorised by the National Council of Hygiene, may not be sold in Uruguay unless under medical prescription. Requests for authorisation for sale must be addressed to the Council; a model form for use in this connection may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73 Basinghall Street, London, E.C. Each petition must bear stamps to the value of 25 cents, and must be accompanied by three samples of the article, the qualitative and quantitative formula thereof, and samples of the labels and advertising literature. If an article is to be sold under different forms (such as syrup, pills, etc.), a separate authorisation must be obtained for each form. A separate petition must be submitted for each article; it is not permissible to include different products prepared by a manufacturer in one and the same petition. The manufacturer's formal power of attorney must accompany petitions submitted to the Council. A fee of from 10 to 20 pesos will be payable for the analyses by the Council of each article.—*Board of Trade Journal*.



Memoranda for Correspondents.

All communications must be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, otherwise they cannot be dealt with. Queries by subscribers on dispensing, legal, and miscellaneous subjects connected with the business are replied to in these columns if they are considered to be of general interest.

Letters submitted for publication (if suitable) should be written on one side of the paper only. Their publication in "The Chemist and Druggist" does not imply Editorial agreement with the opinions expressed.

Local Associations Committee and Manchester.

SIR,—We, the undersigned members of the Council of the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association, feel that the report of the Local Associations Committee which appeared in your issue of February 10, index folio 232, is of such a character as to leave us no alternative but to address, very reluctantly, a letter to the pharmaceutical Press. It appears from the said report that the episode resulting in the abandoning of our meeting on January 10 was due to a "misunderstanding." We have no recollection of its having been put before us in that light. May we ask it, and when, a communication was sent to Manchester to that effect? Further, it is stated that the Chairman of the Local Associations Committee was empowered to act "in whatever way he thought was most calculated to dispel the misunderstanding that was apparently existing." As far as we are collectively and severally concerned we are ignorant of any steps being taken by Mr. Neathercoat to even approach us in the matter. It is quite clear that some explanation should be forthcoming. At the present juncture it is most important that everything should be done to bring about a closer union of pharmacists, and we greatly regret that our advice to defer the meeting until a later and more favourable time was not acted upon. We are exceedingly sorry to have to ask you to permit us to make use of your publication, but we feel we must make it clear that we have not failed to respond to any overtures because no such overtures appear to have reached us.

We are, yours faithfully,

GEO. S. WOOLLEY	J. GRIER
(President).	(Hon. Secretary).
J. C. KIDD	A. H. BARLOW.
(Vice-President).	F. W. BATES.
A. E. H. BLACKBURN	WILLIAM LANE.
(Vice-President).	ALF. LUCAS BLAIN.
A. J. PIDD (Treasurer).	JOHN WILD.

Manchester, February 13.

SIR,—The references in last week's account of the Pharmaceutical Society's Council proceedings to the recent meeting of pharmacists in Manchester require qualifying to a considerable extent. A reference to the names of the persons present and to the "Register" will make it apparent that it cannot be considered a meeting "in every way successful." With the exception of two gentlemen, whose duties to the London Executive compelled them to be present, there was not a single officer of the Manchester Association present, and the Salford officials were sadly to seek. It is a matter for the most profound regret that someone has failed to realise how deep is the wound which has been caused by what is regarded, rightly or wrongly, as a ruthless interference with local arrangements. Probably someone has been lacking in tact in the first instance; but why the deliberate ignoring of the advice of the local Council should be added to the first grievance is beyond my understanding. Under the circumstances it does not appear to me to be seemly to make so much of a meeting from which were absent the representatives of the firms who, along with others, have for sixty or seventy years continuously served the best interests of pharmacy in the city of Manchester.

Yours faithfully,

Manchester, February 13.

WILLIAM KIRKBY.

Maw's Page.

SIR,—Like "Xrayser II." I take an interest in the advertisements of the *C. & D.*, and incidentally endorse his appreciative criticism of "Maw's Page," which is holding attention by its bright and attractive setting. But I would suggest that there is something new in the subject-matter week by week—new lines and special features which it is incumbent upon the live man to keep in touch with, apart altogether from the attractive setting; the subject-matter, as well as the way it is put, equally fixing attention.

Palmer's Green, N.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. BARTON.

National Insurance Act.

SIR,—One regrets to see a doubt in the editorial mind as to the wisdom of our action in Scotland in the matter of the formation of Pharmaceutical Committees to look after the interests of pharmacists under the National Insurance Act. Disloyalty to the Pharmaceutical Society or a desire to flout the Pharmaceutical Council suggest themselves to men's minds as being the reason for our present action. Neither of these, I am glad to say, has any bearing on the subject. The main factor governing our policy is a realisation of the fact that the Pharmaceutical Society as such has no statutory position under the Insurance Act; it does not represent all the interests which will be on the panel, it cannot itself go on the panel, and, more important, it can neither finance nor control any committee which sets out to aid the working of the Act. I notice, Mr. Editor, that you suggest financing is possible, and I believe the Council itself has some views that way, but I contend it is outside its powers. It may appoint a committee of Council or of its own members, but no further. Recognising these facts, and noting the secondary position given to Scotland in the report of the Council's proceedings (*C. & D.*, January 13, index folio 58), the Associations in Scotland have unanimously approved the lead given them by the General Purposes Committee of the North British Branch, have without dissentient voice accepted the report submitted to the Council as best suited to fulfil the purpose required of it, and have in so doing preserved their national self-respect. This report, I regret, has not been published. If it were, I think it would appeal to level-headed men as a sound business proposition.

JAMES LENNOX.

Glasgow.

Booking-fees.

SIR,—At the last meeting of the Bath and District Pharmaceutical Association the following letter was instructed to be sent to the London patent-medicine houses:

GENTLEMEN,—At a well-attended meeting of the Bath Pharmaceutical Association the recent circular from the London Wholesale Patent-medicine Houses *re* booking-fees was discussed, and I am directed to inform you that the members present unanimously agreed that they strongly object to the action of these wholesale houses in charging the whole cost of booking-fees to the consignees, and regard the same as arbitrary and unfair.

I am yours faithfully,

JOHN HAWES, Hon. Secretary.

SIR,—Mr. Wilfrid Lean in his letter last week draws attention to an attempt by the London houses to penalise their country customers to an extent they are not likely to submit to. It must not be overlooked that since the advent of the P.A.T.A. the handling of patent medicines for the wholesaler has become fairly remunerative, and I suggest that we follow the lead of the doctors and absolutely refuse to be dictated to in this manner. Personally, I have arranged with my drug-house to supply patents with the usual weekly drug-order at London prices. If chemists will only stand together and refuse this imposition, they will be teaching the London patent-houses a lesson that they are not likely to forget when they make out their balance-sheets.

Yours truly,

BRUM. (74/51).

SIR,—I quite agree with your correspondent of last week that country chemists should do their utmost to break the ring of patent-medicine wholesalers that has just been formed *re* booking-fees. As your correspondent

suggests, there are several ways of getting patents and sundries; they can be conveniently got with mixed orders, drugs, etc., from the wholesale drug-houses. It is evident that the ring is formed against small country parcels, as such, and that it is an attempt to kill that trade. In your footnote you state that one house paid as much as 300l. in one year in booking-fees. I ask what would they have spent in carriage had these goods all been sent in the larger parcels they are now striving after? They say they will pay carriage on 5l. worth; that averages seven of my Sutton parcels, so that 5l. worth now costs them 1s. 2d. *I pay the rest.* It would certainly cost them at least double that if they paid all themselves in larger parcels; so it is clearly not the expense but the trouble of our daily parcels that is too much for our wholesale houses, whereas our town friends get their requirements brought to their doors at a few hours' notice.

Yours faithfully,

Milford Haven.

J. H. LLEWELIN.

Warning to Retail Chemists.

SIR.—Having been the victim of an old trick, a timely warning may put others on their guard, and possibly be the means of catching two artful rogues:

Time of day about 8 P.M. Enter a well-dressed man of about thirty years of age (just inside shop door), and asks for a bottle of Bovril and one of Owbridge's lung- tonic to be sent to a certain address close by. As an afterthought he returns and requests change for a sovereign to be sent at the same time, so that messenger may be paid on delivery.

Boy sent off with parcel and change, and is met in the street by another man (who professes to come from address given), and asks boy if he is going there with goods from chemist. Boy naturally answers "Yes," and, on request, hands over goods and change for a very bad specimen of a counterfeit sovereign.

If, by your courtesy, the publication of the above facts is the means of keeping another poor chemist from being defrauded it will have served its purpose.

PHARMACIST. (74/56).

Half-holiday for Belfast.

SIR.—It is very gratifying to know that there are at least one or two chemists in Belfast who can devote a part of their time to discuss such pertinent questions as those relating directly to their own calling. The majority may, and I am convinced do, feel quite in sympathy with this question of a half-holiday, but either suffer too much from self-depreciation or are not energetic enough to voice their individual opinions for the benefit of their colleagues. In this connection Ruskin's famous words apply admirably. He says, "There is no lack of genius amongst us, still less of industry; the least we do is laborious and the worst is wonderful, but there is a lack, deep and wide, of discretion in directing toil." Now that we are compelled by law to allow each employé a half-holiday per week, it is incumbent upon each one of us connected with the trade to grapple with the situation in a business-like way. With this end in view, might I suggest the following for the consideration of all concerned?—

(1) That the employers meet to discuss and, if possible, decide which is the most suitable day to close, and I suggest Wednesday or Thursday, for a holiday on either day would break up the week nicely.

(2) That the employés also meet and discuss the different phases from their standpoint, and that they appoint a deputation to wait on the employers, and, having put the assistants' views before them, leave the matter entirely in the employers' hands. This, I hold, would be not only the proper course to pursue, but it would also give the employé the idea that his interests would also be considered; for, after all, is not the present assistant the future employer? and a house divided against itself cannot stand.

Many other suggestions could be made, but first get us together and all will be well.

Yours faithfully,

SOUTH DOWN. (74/59).

SIR.—Referring to the letters in your issues of the last two weeks as to any action to be taken by the trade as a whole re the Shops Act, if your correspondents had only had sufficient interest in the Ulster Drug-trade Associa-

tion as to have attended the annual meeting held two weeks since, they would have heard it brought forward. After discussion, it was arranged to call a meeting of the entire trade in the beginning of March to take action. I hope these gentlemen will attend that meeting and voice their opinions, and not afterwards find fault with what has been done.

Yours sincerely,

J. D. CARSE.

The Inflammability of Urotropine.

SIR.—The fact that hexamethylene tetramine burns quite brightly is not, I think, generally known. I have been trying a few experiments with a solution of it in methylated spirit, as a heating-agent; it seems to work very well—preventing the too rapid consumption of the spirit. Have your readers tested it in this direction?

Yours truly,

J. C. McWALTER.

Dublin, February 8.

North British Executive of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr. Thomas Yule writes, in reply to Mr. W. P. Wilson, regarding points of controversy between them. Mr. Yule says:

I offered myself as a candidate last year along with two other Fife-shire chemists. The members put us all in.

Mr. Wilson's memory is completely at fault regarding the discussion on my proposition at the October meeting. I was not informed that the matter was in the hands of a committee. . . . I was not asked "if I could suggest anything more that could be done." . . . The Chairman asked me to be brief.

I am shocked at hearing that a complete scheme of local organisation for Scotland was placed under the charge of the committee nineteen years ago. Surely the Council made a mistake. Had the charge been put upon the committee all might have been well, but to place it under Mr. Giles, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Wilson (our heavyweights) meant what has happened—it has never got from under.

Mr. Wilson says that at the meeting on January 26 the committee reported that "the local organisation meetings had been successfully carried out." Visitation by the Assistant Secretary is not organisation.

I was extremely surprised to find Mr. Wilson's name attached to the brief for the defence. Mr. Wilson, at last meeting at York Place, while we were gathering in, was himself deploring the fact that our meetings were so ineffective. Would Mr. Wilson kindly furnish your readers with the reasons for his lament, and try a little counter-prescribing by way of a remedy?

Almanacks and Other Advertising Schemes.

"Chemists ought to have a clear understanding with the printer's representative before they sign any contract, and thus prevent a crop of misunderstanders for 1912."—*Anti-cutting Record and C. & D.*

SIR.—There should not be, and need not be, any need for any misunderstanding, but the fact is that the system on which these things are mainly got out has been abused to such an extent that the method has become hackneyed, and as such has lost its attraction for the advertising wholesalers who foot the bill. The contract is printed in small type where it might be bold and clear with advantage, and the representative is generally in a hurry to catch a train. Twenty years ago advertisements were easily got from makers and wholesalers. Every chemist in the land has known of the method for years, therefore when they get the offer they naturally do not start looking for trouble which ought not to exist. They sign the contract in good faith, and let the man catch his train. Suppose, for argument's sake, that is in June or July; by August-September there comes along a batch of circulars which you send out to 100 wholesalers and patent-medicine manufacturers: "I am getting up an almanack and offer you a page at 12s. 6d.; ½-page, 7s. Goods taken in payment, etc." You add a few remarks suggesting what the advertisement might be. Some of the replies you get open your eyes right quick—e.g.:

- (1) "We are tired of this almanack business."
- (2) "Our directors have vetoed this form of advertisement."
- (3) "We have entirely given up this style of advertisement."
- (4) "Even to an old and valued customer like yourself we cannot agree to take these advertisements on again; the hackneyed style makes the advertisement valueless to us."

You write to printers asking them to cancel, but get no reply even after three or four letters. You offer to pay the profit they would have made had the transaction been completed. They ignore you, and during October, November, and December bombard you with form letters asking for your "copy," and so on. In wrath you write them; and in reply you get a lawyer's letter demanding "3l. 10s. and our fee, 6s. 8d.," for almanacks which you have not had. Your lawyer then comes into play. By means of a magnifying glass he deciphers the contract, and says you must pay up or go on and finish the job (fee 6s. 8d.). With such businesslike, soothing advice you cave in, offer to go on, ask them to send a fresh batch of 100 circulars, which you send to 100 fresh names. You choose the newer patents that are making headway, avoid any that would give offence to doctors, and you get replies offering to take (roughly) 10l. worth of advertisements in return for from five to ten times the amount of advertisements in goods; that is, you have to take from 50l. to 100l. worth of goods in order to save 10l. You are now entering upon a new year, and if you do as I did, you have a great deal of work before you, getting up the copy, photos, blocks of your own and from advertisers; so that it may be the month of May before you put everything in the printer's hands. Now your contract said 1,000 almanacks only at 3l. 10s., plus 50 per cent. of the 10l. you got in advertisements for printing the advertisements obtained (fifteen pages) 5l., plus 5s. a page for printing your own advertisements (ten pages) 2l. 10s., together 11l. You have to work all this out for yourself; and besides you have paid for such items as postage of circulars, 12s. 6d.; blocks, say, 15s. (it may be less or more); carriage of blocks (to and fro), 6s.; carriage of almanacks, 4s.; sundry postages, 2s. 6d.; and lawyer's fee (in my case). In my case the total cost for 3,000 almanacks came to 17l., and the payment was spread over a period by mutual agreement. I know a chemist (who turns over 3,000l. a year) who, through an ordinary printer, produces every year a price-list at little or no cost to himself, because he can take big orders and he gets more advertisements than he needs, making a profit when he has sold all the goods which he got for advertisements. But the small chemist runs many risks—e.g.:

- (1) Unsaleable stock.
- (2) Stock out of season.
- (3) Actual expense not worth it for all the good a single almanack does.
- (4) To depart from the hackneyed style and make one of your own from A to Z is like working three months into one month, and the results are not commensurate with the energy used up.
- (5) The whole practice is wasteful and economically unsound.

How, then, should it be done? Seeing that Boots are putting out 1,000,000 almanacks every now and then it would indicate that an almanack is advisable from private chemists. But Boots' almanacks are beautifully done; some of them in three colours. What we want is a co-operative or Ucal scheme for 1,000,000, spread over several thousand chemists. This would bring the price down to about 30s. or 40s. per 1,000. I believe in almanacks, but they must be well done and in colour; must be small and easily taken, and they must be made interesting without extraneous almanack matter such as is supplied to-day. Advertising by 5,000 chemists yearly at 20l. a head is 100,000l. Even Beecham only spends 50,000l. If we spent our 100,000l. properly it ought surely to bring us in 1,000,000l. in returns; 200l. per shop. In best position it will do this at present, and very often the men in second-rate position are more secure because their trade belongs to their position; little of it coming by advertising. The problem which interests me is this: Couldn't these 5,000 men at 20l. a year each do something notable in combined advertising? 100,000l. administered by a committee could transform entirely the fronts and old fittings in 200 shops per year, the best positions being chosen first. 250l. spent on each shop, making it thoroughly modern, would be a lasting advertisement. Cash repaid in two or three years. Even then they would have 50,000l. left over to administer as an advertising fund. The idea seems good! Even fifty men combined would be a force if properly worked, would be better

than trying to run big companies dependent on ill-trained assistants, too idle to work, too thriftless to save; they need the support of someone stronger to help them earn a living.

Think it over! This is not a new scheme for a new heaven and a new earth. Merely a little plan of the steam-roller type to improve the results from money which is being spent yearly as it is. No subscriptions! No rules! Five of a committee with two always absent.

JAY MACK.

Subscribers' Symposium.

For questions, answers, incidents, and interchange of opinions among "C. & D." readers.

A Veterinary Remedy.

Last week (index folio 240) we published a note asking for suggestions as to the uses of a mixture of oil of vitriol, spirit of wine, and butter of antimony, which a London chemist was asked for. This has brought us several replies:

It is used for foot-rot in horses—one of the finest things to use, but wants care in applying.—*J. S. R.*

I have frequently made up the recipe mentioned for foot-rot in sheep. Some customers have it combined with tr. myrrhæ and tinct. benzoin. comp.—*E. J. Breen, Ph.C. (Dublin).*

I have often sold the articles mentioned by "J. G." for foot-rot in sheep. If for horses, it is probably for removing a wart or similar objectionable complaint.—*S. Keane, R.D. (Kilkenny).*

Butter of antimony is used for thrush in horses, also for corns in the same animal. Possibly someone thought to improve upon it by the addition of oil of vitriol and spirit of wine.—(75/22.)

Oil of vitriol and butter of antimony are used very largely in this district to make horses eat, a few drops being placed in the drinking-water. I have not known S.V.R. to be given with it. Farmers' carters are the chief purchasers; coachmen never.—*A. D. Gardiner (Twyford).*

I have frequently dispensed the same mixture, also with the addition of alumen sulph. in the place of antim. mur. It is used during the early spring by farmers as a lotion, added to a quart of water, to harden horses' shoulders that have a tendency during the hard-work season to break with the harness friction.—*J. M.*

I recently had the admission of a coal-hawker that this is used very greatly by men of his class, who are paid for quickness of service or according to the amount of their sales. He informed me it was "the finest stuff in the world for 'livening-up' worn-out horses," and is almost always, as may be expected, given to these unfortunate animals unknown to their owners. The recipe is frequently sold for five or six shillings.—*W. H. Hornby (Birmingham).*

Legal Queries.

Consult "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1912, pp. 435 to 454, where most legal difficulties are anticipated, before writing about your difficulty.

J. Kens (75/10).—The reply to "Gobaith" covers you.

G. H. F. (70/52).—The new regulation (not Act) regarding ammonia does not apply to sales by wholesale.

L. P. S. I. (71/22).—The new regulations respecting the sale of ammonia and mineral acids do not extend to Ireland. See *C. & D. Diary*, p. 436.

Ignoramus (74/37).—Section 15 (5, iv.) of the Insurance Act applies to apothecaries' assistants, present and prospective (see also reply to "H. C. R.").

Delta (70/54).—The disclosure of the ingredients on the label of your throat-pastilles enables you as a chemist to advertise them in any manner as a cure.

Cocaine (153/8).—The question of supplying a "good customer" with 72 grams of cocaine hydrochloride per week is entirely a moral one. In a case where there is no doctor's prescription to cover the sale the responsibility of the woman's condition is entirely upon the seller of the cocaine. The ethical and moral course for a chemist is to warn the customer and stop the supplies.

Apprentice (66/12).—If an undertaking is given in a contract of apprenticeship that the apprentice will not subsequently start business within a certain radius of his employer's shop, and the contract is signed by the apprentice's father as well as by the apprentice himself, the father will be liable to any penalty provided for in the deed for infringement of the terms of the contract.

Rex (67/63).—The personal injury referred to in the Workmen's Compensation Act must be something caused "by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment" of the workman. It is unlikely that pneumonia would be regarded as an accident, but would be treated as frost-bite has been (see appeal decision in *Warner v. Couchman*, *C. & D.*, 1911, II., 739).

P. B. (67/42).—The printing of testimonials on handbills relating to medicines will make such medicines liable to duty if the testimonials are of a recommendatory nature. In the case of the lung and chest mixture which is not otherwise dutiable, the following testimonial printed on the handbill, and circulated, constitutes liability (subject to the known, admitted, and approved remedy exemption): "Have you an agent in Liverpool for your lung and chest mixture? We find it a most beneficial and almost instantaneous cure." Such a testimonial as "Kindly forward a bottle of lung-mixture to Mrs. S." does not create liability.

Gobaith (66/51).—Two chemists, A. and B., each having a shop, became partners. Subsequently they dissolved partnership, entering into a deed of dissolution, which provided that each should remain in the shop in which he then was, and each should "undertake not to open a chemist's shop or be interested in any similar business, either directly or indirectly, within half a mile of the other" under a penalty. Two years ago B. sold his business to C. Can C. open a shop within half a mile of A.'s shop without incurring any liability? [C. is only liable in respect of B.'s covenant if he had *express* notice of it at the time he purchased B.'s shop, which may be difficult to prove, even if it is in fact the case.]

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We do not as a rule repeat information which has been given in this section during the past twelve months, as it occupies space which can be more profitably utilised for other information. In such cases the numbers are mentioned, and if querists cannot refer to these they may obtain the numbers from the "C. & D." Office at the published prices, usually 6d.

We do not undertake to analyse and report upon proprietary articles, and when samples are sent particulars should be supplied to us as to their origin, what they are, what they are used for and how.

M. W. C. (64/48).—COPYING-PAD COMPOSITION.—See *C. & D.*, August 19, 1911, index folio 334.

Hunts (66/49).—If a one-solution hair-dye of appropriate colour is applied to the eyelashes carefully with a camel-hair brush, no injury to the eye itself is likely to result.

J. H. (68/61).—THE PROSPECTS FOR A CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST IN NEW ZEALAND or in the States of Australia are very similar to what they are here. There competition exists, and there are failures just as in the Old Country, but there is something in the air of the Dominion and the Commonwealth which seems to stimulate men to work harder and to be keener in business, with the result that successes are more frequent.

S. M. L. (59/70).—LABELLING TINS.—It has been found that if the tinned surface is painted with water-glass before affixing the label, perfect adhesion results.

J. L. (58/55).—WHITE EMBROCATION FOR HORSES.—The following formula from "Veterinary Counter-practice" is of the kind you require:

Vitellos	...	...	...	xij.
Sapon. moll.	...	...	...	3vj.
Ol. tercinth.	...	...	...	3xx.
Liq. ammon. fort.	...	...	...	3v.
Acidi acetici	...	...	...	3iv.
Camphoræ	...	...	...	3vj.
Spirit.	...	...	...	3viiij.
Ol. succini rect.	...	...	...	3iv.
Aquam ad	...	...	...	Oiv.

Rub the soap gradually with 10 oz. of water to form a smooth jelly; add the spirit with the camphor dissolved in it; mix the turpentine and the oil of amber; add gradually to the mixture, stirring assiduously the while, and aiding emulsification by the occasional addition of a little water. Then add the ammonia. Now transfer to a Winchester, add gradually the acetic acid diluted with a pint or more of water; add the eggs one by one, well shaking all the time, and finally make up to 80 oz. with water.

B. J. C. (59/38).—(1) LAVENDER-WATER.—There are numerous recipes in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," but perhaps your

difficulty is to choose a suitable one. The following is a model formula which can be made at varying cost, according to the quality of the lavender oil:

Lavender oil	...	...	3ss.
Bergamot oil	...	...	℥xxx.
Lemon oil	...	...	℥xxx.
Otto of rose	...	...	℥x.
Rectified spirit	...	...	Oij.

Mix and allow to stand for a month before filtering.

(2) EAU DE COLOGNE.—

Lavender oil	...	...	3j.
Bergamot oil	...	...	3j.
Lemon oil	...	...	3j.
Neroli oil	...	...	3j.
Cinnamon oil	...	...	3ij.
Rosemary oil	...	...	3ij.
Rectified spirit	...	...	Oix.

Mix.

Suds (60/48).—SAL SODA is crude sodium carbonate.

A. W. P. (22/1).—See reply to "J. L."

W. E. W. (48/33).—(1) RED SHOW-CARD INK.—Various "inks" are used for red lettering on window tickets:

1.	2.
Vermilion ... 3j.	Bordeaux red ... ʒiij.
Glycerin ... ʒiij.	Spirit ... ʒij.
Mucilage of acacia ... ʒxl.	Water ... ʒjss.
	Glycerin ... ʒi.

Some time ago a correspondent informed us that he uses with success red straw-hat varnish. (2) GOLD-PAINT MEDIUMS.—Five varieties were given in the *C. & D.*, February 11, 1911, index folio 238.

Eyctone (57/53).—EYE-LOTION.—The following is a good and characteristic eye-lotion for counter sale:

Ac. borici	...	...	...	5j. gr. xx.
Zinci sulph.	...	...	...	gr. viij.
Glycerin.	...	...	...	3j.
Inf. salviæ ad	...	...	...	3viij.

The infusion of sage is made of the strength of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of dried sage-leaves to a pint of boiling water.

Acacia (43/20).—(1) SKIN-CREAM.—Your second letter throws a different light on your first inquiry. A formula of the type you require was given in the *C. & D.*, October 14, 1911, index folio 594, and the indices of past volumes of the *C. & D.* will supply you with plenty of references to other formulae. (2) Qualifications by themselves do not always command a corresponding increase in salary, but when combined with common sense are very valuable commercial assets.

Retrospect of Fifty Years Ago.

Reprinted from "The Chemist and Druggist," February 15, 1862

Chloroformic Solution of Gutta Percha.

Soon after it was known that gutta percha would dissolve readily in chloroform, Mr. Hodgson, an American pharmacist, introduced the dark coloured impure solution as an application for abraded surfaces in lieu of court plaster. Subsequently, about eight years ago, he ascertained a method of depriving the solution of colour, so as to yield, by evaporation, a colourless layer when applied to the skin. At the request of Dr. George B. Wood, Mr. Hodgson cheerfully communicated his formula for the use of the United States Pharmacopœia Committee, and with the sanction of those gentlemen the recipe has been published in the "American Journal of Pharmacy." From this source we obtain the following transcript from the report of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia on the United States Pharmacopœia:

LIQUOR GUTTE PERCHÆ CHLOROFORMICUS.

Chloroformic Solution of Gutta Percha.

Take of gutta percha, in small slices, an ounce and a half. Chloroform, twelve fluid ounces.

Carbonate of lead, in fine powder, two ounces.

To eight fluid ounces of the chloroform contained in a bottle add the gutta percha, and shake occasionally till it is dissolved; then add the carbonate of lead, previously mixed smoothly with the remainder of the chloroform, and having shaken the whole thoroughly together several times, at intervals of half an hour, set the mixture aside and let it stand for ten days, or until the insoluble matter has subsided and the solution has become limpid and either colourless or of a slight straw colour. Lastly, decant, and keep the solution in a glass-stoppered bottle.

